

People Scrutiny Commission Supplementary Information



Date: Thursday, 22 October 2020

Time: 2.00 pm

Venue: Virtual Meeting - Zoom Committee Meeting
with Public Access via YouTube

8. Public Health Update

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Issued by: Dan Berlin, Democratic Services
City Hall, Bristol, BS1 5TR
Tel: 0117 3525232
E-mail: democratic.services@bristol.gov.uk
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People Scrutiny Commission

22 October 2020



Report of: Director of Public Health

Title: Public Health update: COVID 19 bi-weekly Bristol statistics update

Ward: ALL

Officer Presenting Report: Christina Gray, Director of Public Health

Recommendation: For the People Scrutiny Commission to note the report

The significant issues in the report are:

Up to 16 October there have been a total of 3685 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Bristol

For the latest week there were 981 new cases of COVID-19 Bristol, an increase from previous week (630 cases in previous week)

3070 new cases were identified between 29 May to 20 October in Bristol; of these 2387 were followed by the National Test and Trace system (78%).

R number in the south west region is 1.3 to 1.6.

There have been a total of 256 COVID-19 deaths (12% of all deaths in that period) in Bristol since the beginning of March.

Refer to Appendix A for commentary.



COVID-19 bi-weekly Bristol statistics update

Tuesday 20 October 2020



We aim to publish a COVID-19 bi-weekly Bristol statistics update twice a week, on Tuesday and Friday afternoons. This may be delayed until the following day, depending on when data is made available. These numbers and rates do change daily but were accurate when published on the date stated on the report.

Summary

Bristol's rate of 211.7 new cases per 100,000 population in the last 7 days (up to the 16th October) is considerably higher than for the previous 7 days (135.9 per 100,000). The reported rate represents 981 positive cases reported for Bristol over the past 7 days within a population of over 463,000 people.

The trend is very clearly moving upwards both locally and nationally and the Bristol rate remains above England rate of 170.8 per 100,000 and is now ranked 46th among 149 English local authorities.

Bristol is a Tier 1 area in the new national assessment system. This means we must continue to adhere to national instructions and guidelines. We are closely monitoring any changes and are considering the situation carefully.

The regional R number remains at the same level as last week: a range of 1.3 – 1.6 reflecting the rise in cases locally and nationally. The range of R is above 1 indicating the epidemic is increasing.

The majority of the increase in new cases are in younger age groups, and reflect schools returning and universities opening. However, we are also seeing a rise in cases in working age adults. Transmission appears to be linked to greater informal social mixing and family contacts. This is when we let our guard down and relax. COVID-19 secure environments appear to be effective. So please do spread the word, that mixing in families and in social groups does spread the virus. Everyone must take care to maintain social distance and social bubbles. Outside is safer than inside, but you must still maintain social distance. Cover your face in indoor public places.

We continue to see a number of positive cases of COVID-19 in Bristol's schools. Bristol City Council is working closely with these schools and Public Health England to ensure that these situations are investigated and managed appropriately. We are grateful to our schools, teachers, pupils and parents for taking appropriate action, even though it is very disruptive.

As we welcome our students back to Bristol the council has been working with both universities to prepare for the return of students to the city and to keep everyone COVID-19 safe. Inevitably we have had a number of positive cases among our student community and we are working closely with universities and Public Health England to investigate and manage these and to make sure that all students have access to food and other welfare support. We thank our students for continuing to be extremely responsible in coming forward for testing and in managing the challenges of isolating away from home. The daily Bristol University update can be found here: <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/coronavirus/statistics/>

The Director of Public Health is aware how important visits are for the wellbeing of both residents and their families, and with the Director for Adult Services, encourages Care Homes to take all steps to continue to facilitate visits safely while being particularly mindful of this rising background of infection. This will require ongoing and dynamic risk assessment with strong infection prevention and control measures to include staff testing, handwashing, social distancing, use of face coverings / PPE, meeting in the open air and the self-isolation and swift access to testing if unwell, involving residents and their families in these assessments and decisions. This is particularly important with the greater level of circulation of the virus nationally at present.

Our local hospitals are seeing an increase in people requiring treatment for COVID-19 symptoms. If you are in an at risk category, please take additional care in your interactions, while continuing to get exercise and maintaining social connections for your wellbeing. It is important to avoid exposure to the virus by keeping your distance from people who are not in your household. Meet outside, cover your face when in public places and frequently wash your hands.

There continues to be high demand for testing so please only book a test if you have symptoms of COVID-19.

If you have symptoms, or if you have been in contact with someone who is positive, it is very important that you isolate for the required period.

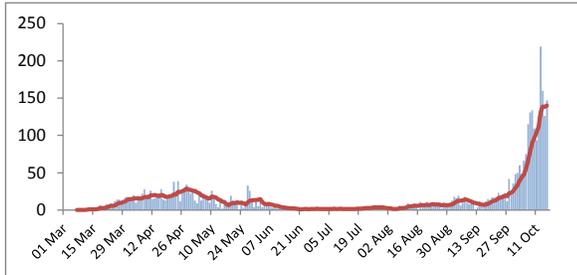
As previously, the rising numbers of cases locally and nationally means that there is absolutely no room for complacency. We have an opportunity to address the spread of the virus, but only if we continue to adhere to the rules, guidance and behaviours that are required.

Thank you everyone for your sacrifices and support.

Hands, Face, Space, Isolate

Cases of COVID-19

Up to 16 October there have been a total of 3685 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Bristol. For the latest week there were 981 new cases of COVID-19 in Bristol, an increase from previous week (630 cases in previous week)



compared to other local authorities

Rate of cases in last 7 days per 100,000

Bristol 211.7
England 170.8

Avon and Somerset Local Authorities

Bath and North East Somerset 114.0
North Somerset 60.3
South Gloucestershire 100.8
Somerset 41.8

Top 5 Local Authorities in England

Knowsley 526.8
Nottingham 505.0
Liverpool 458.8
Blackburn with Darwen 413.6
Rochdale 375.5

Test and Trace

3079 new cases were identified between 28th May to 20 October in Bristol. Of these 2387 were followed by the National Test and Trace system (78%). Those followed up provided details of 9350 contacts (average of 3.9 contacts per case). The National Test & Trace system has been in touch with 5262 of these identified contacts (56%).

Links / further info

[Bristol Local Outbreak Management Plan](#)
[Public Health England Covid-19 surveillance](#)
[UK Government Covid-19 in the UK](#)
[Office for National Statistics Covid-19](#)

Data sources: GOV.UK, Public Health England, NHS Digital and the Office for National Statistics

COVID-19 Tests

In the last 7 days 11,098 community COVID-19 tests (not in hospital) have been undertaken, in the last 30 days it's 40,427 and 125,116 tests since March. In the last 7 days 11.6% of tests (1 in 9) were positive.

R number (South West region)

1.3 to 1.6

The reproduction number (R) is the average number of secondary infections produced by 1 infected person. If R is greater than 1 the epidemic is growing, if R is less than 1 the epidemic is shrinking.

The estimated range for the R number in the South West indicates that on average each positive case will result in between 1.3 and

Growth rate
6% to 10%

The growth rate reflects how quickly the number of infections are changing day by day. The latest estimated growth rate for the South West lies between 6% and 10%. The range of values indicates that the number of infections are growing but there is uncertainty about how fast they are growing.

Deaths from COVID-19

There have been a total of 256 COVID-19 deaths (12% of all deaths in that period) in Bristol since the beginning of March.

