

People Scrutiny Commission Supplementary Information



Date: Monday, 8 March 2021

Time: 2.00 pm

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

7. COVID-19 Update (For Information)

(Pages 2 - 4)

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People Scrutiny Commission

8th March 2021



Title: COVID 19 bi-weekly Bristol statistics update

Ward: ALL

Recommendation:

For the People Scrutiny Commission to note the City Council's COVID-19 bi-weekly Bristol statistics update of 4th March 2021





We aim to publish a COVID-19 bi-weekly Bristol statistics update twice a week, on Monday and Thursday. 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

Latest case data: a local picture

Bristol's rate of 82 new cases per 100,000 population (data from February 20 to February 26), is lower than the previous seven days (109 new cases per 100,000). This reduction is reflected in all areas of the city. However, this is still a high level of infection. England's infection rate is currently 91 new cases per 100,000.

Changes in the virus (new variants) are being closely observed both in the UK and globally. Following the two week asymptomatic community surge testing which was put in place in Bristol and South Gloucestershire well over 40,000 tests were completed, of which a small number of around 1% have tested positive. All positive tests found in surge testing areas are sent for further genomic analysis. We are awaiting the results of this analysis.

Over the recent weekend South Gloucestershire Council have been asked by Government to undertake further community testing for COVID-19, following the identification of a different new variant of concern in the area, commonly known as the Manaus, Brazil (P.1) variant. Public Health England has identified a number of cases of this type in England which include 2 cases in the South Gloucestershire area. All cases have been rapidly followed up by PHE's Health Protection Team and the situation is well contained. The risk to the general public is assessed as low, and the additional testing is highly precautionary. We are working closely with South Gloucestershire and Public Health England. Further information: www.southglos.gov.uk/surgetesting

The regional R number is estimated to lie within a range of 0.6 – 0.8, reflecting a fall in case numbers recently. Age profile of cases in Bristol:

- 15% of cases are in the under 20 age group
- 22% of cases are in the 20-29 age group
- 54% of cases are in the 30-59 age group
- 9% of cases are amongst those aged 60 years or over.

At March 3, there are 96 people in our local hospitals who have tested positive for COVID-19. Our health and care systems remain under pressure as a result of COVID-19 admissions, winter pressures and other urgent priorities.

We continue to support the NHS with the vaccine rollout across Bristol, in line with the national prioritisation programme. From December 8 to February 28, 297,492 vaccines were administered across Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire. You can view vaccine statistics here: www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/covid-19-vaccinations

Schools/universities

All schools and further education colleges will reopen to all pupils on 8 March, as announced by Government. At February 26, 53 schools had at least one student or staff member with COVID-19. Regular rapid testing will be available for secondary and FE students and all staff. Community testing will also be available for the households and the household bubbles of children. Remote learning is in place for most university courses with exceptions for medicine, veterinary courses and for those students who need to access specialist facilities as part of their course. Students returning to should be tested twice upon arrival or self-isolate for ten days. If students have queries, they should speak directly to their universities who will be able to help.

Shops and public places

If you visit shops or supermarkets, wear a face covering unless you are exempt, and keep two metres from people not in your household to stem the rise of infections. At February 26, there were a reported 20 workplaces managing cases of COVID-19.

Care homes

Government guidance permits care home residents in England to receive visits from their family and friends in a COVID-secure way while national restrictions are in place. Guidance is under regular review to ensure the safety of care home residents, staff and visitors. At February 26, 24% of Bristol's care homes had outbreaks or clusters.

Testing

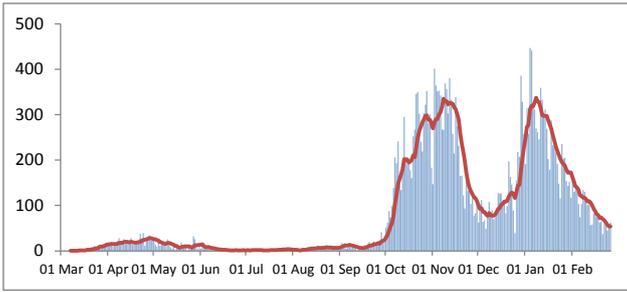
If you develop symptoms of COVID-19, you must self-isolate and book a test at: www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test.

Support and resources: People in urgent need can call the free We Are Bristol helpline on: 0800 694 0184 (Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 5pm and Saturday to Sunday, 10am to 2pm). For mental health support, call the 24/7 Support and Connect helpline 0800 0126 549.

More information at: www.wearebristol.co.uk. For business support and the latest COVID-19 guidance, please visit: www.bristol.gov.uk/coronavirus.

Cases of COVID-19

Up to 26 February there have been a total of 29498 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Bristol. For the latest week there were 378 new cases of COVID-19 in Bristol, a decrease from previous week (505 cases in previous week)



Compared to other local authorities

Rate of cases in last 7 days per 100,000

Bristol 82
England 91

Avon and Somerset Local Authorities

Bath and North East Somerset 39
North Somerset 51
South Gloucestershire 59
Somerset 55

Top 5 Local Authorities in England

Leicester 208
Peterborough 196
Sandwell 184
Bradford 174
Bolton 172

Test and Trace

30077 new cases were identified between 28th May to 03 March in Bristol. Of these 25618 were followed by the National Test and Trace system (85%). Those followed up provided details of 62140 contacts (average of 2.4 contacts per case). The National Test & Trace system has been in touch with 46139 of these identified contacts (74%).

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](#)

COVID-19 Tests

In the last 7 days 10,646 community COVID-19 tests (not in hospital) have been undertaken, in the last 30 days it's 71,531 and 392,785 tests since March. In the last 7 days 3.1% of tests (1 in 32) were positive.

R number (South West region)

0.6 to 0.8

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 0.6 and 0.8 new cases.

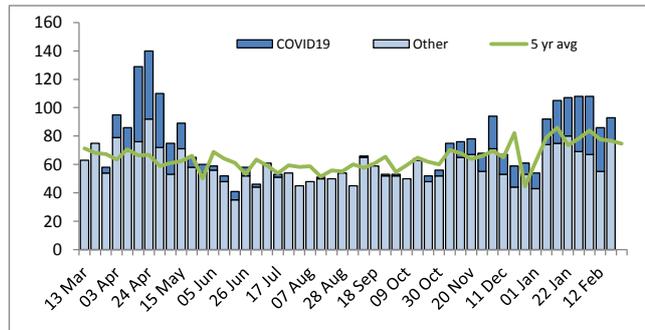
Growth rate

-7% to -4%

The growth rate reflects how quickly the number of infections are changing day by day. The latest estimated growth rate for the South West indicates that the numbers of new cases in the South West region are declining day-by-day, but there is uncertainty about how fast this is happening and there will be variation across the region.

Deaths from COVID-19

There have been a total of 579 COVID-19 deaths (16% of all deaths in that period) in Bristol since the beginning of March.



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