

Weekly note on COVID in Bolton – 17th December 2020

Local COVID Alert Level: Greater Manchester Tier 3 restrictions apply from 2nd December

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 have significantly reduced, with on average 57 cases per day in the week to 11th 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 35-44 and remained high in children aged 0-15
- The largest number of cases are White British (62%). There is a disproportionate number of cases of Asian background (10%)
- There remains a disproportionate number of cases from the most disadvantaged parts of the borough, although this is becoming less prominent

7-day rate of cases per 100,000 population

The current rate is estimated to be 139.1 for the 7 days ending 11th December. This rate is an estimate and may change. Case rates have been trending downwards, though the downward trend has been slower amongst those aged 60+ and rates have levelled in recent days for this age group.

Test numbers and Positivity

Testing rates continue to trend downwards, however proportion of tests reported as positive, known as 'positivity', remains high at 6.4% for the 7 days ending 11th December.

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 0.7-0.9 as of Friday 11th 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 are relatively steady as are the number of patients requiring critical care for serious illness, and the number of people dying in hospital.

Deaths with COVID-19 and deaths from all causes

Sadly, there have been a total of 498 deaths with COVID-19 amongst Bolton residents (registered up to 12th December 2020). The number of deaths has increased in recent weeks.

Ward level data

In the last week cases have been reported on all wards in the borough. From 30th November-6th December, Rumworth ward saw the highest number of cases. No wards had a significant rise in case

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

rates from the previous week, although Tonge with the Haulgh ward and Rumworth ward saw the greatest rise in rates.

Figure 1.

Daily confirmed cases of COVID-19 for Bolton, with Pillar 1 and Pillar 2 cases inclusive

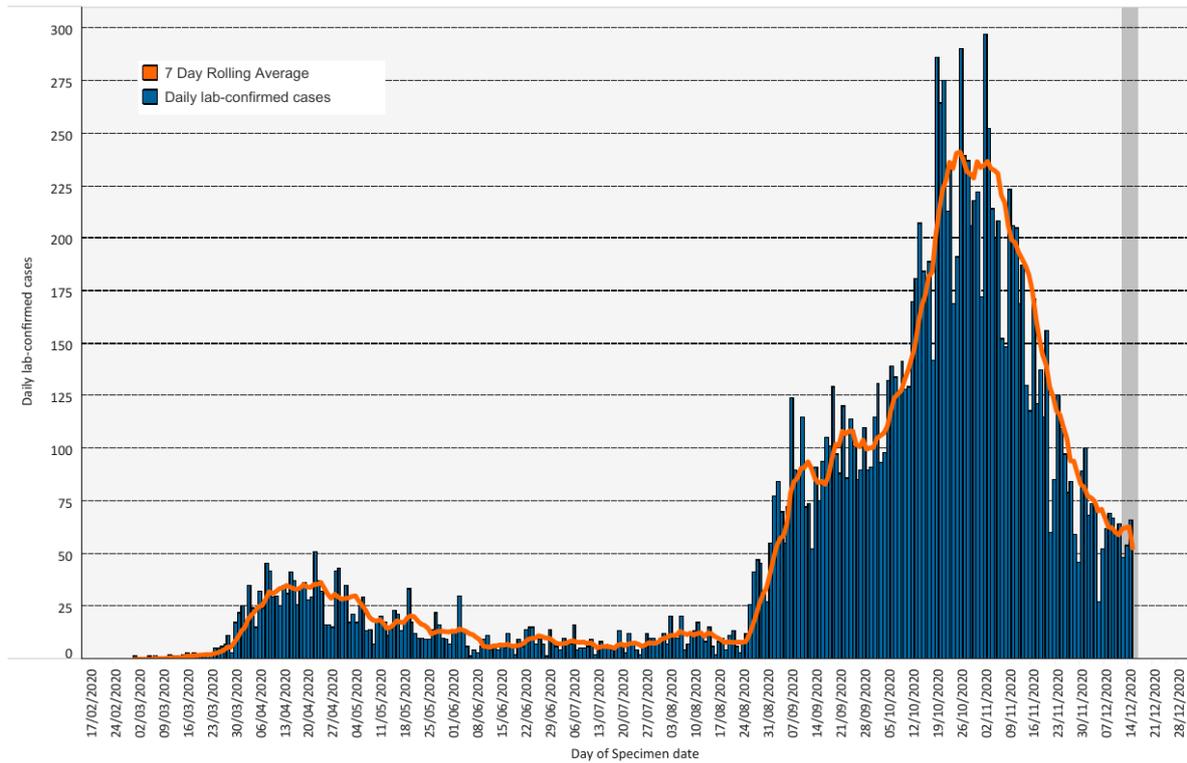
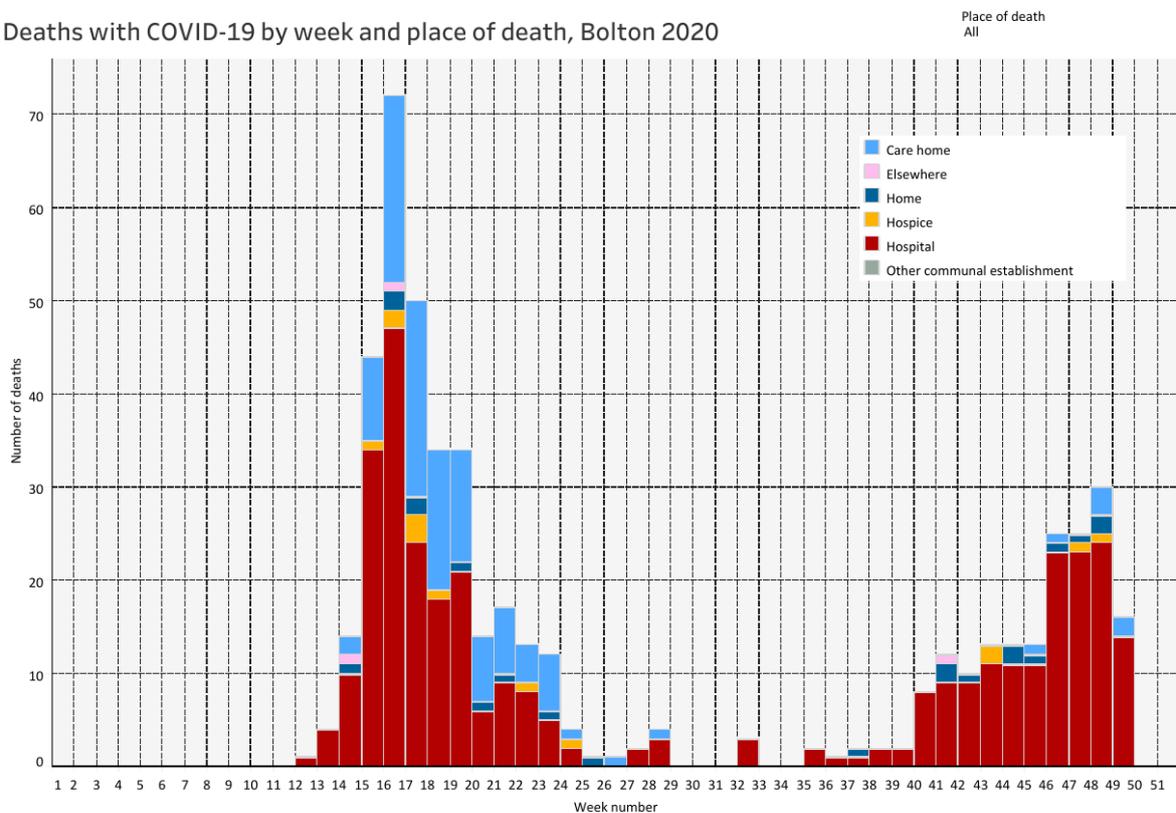


Figure 2.

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



Prepared by Lynn Donkin, Assistant Director/Consultant in Public Health with support from Bolton COVID-19 Data Cell. Queries should be sent to: PublicHealthDirectorate@bolton.gov.uk

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