



ISLINGTON

COVID 19 Update

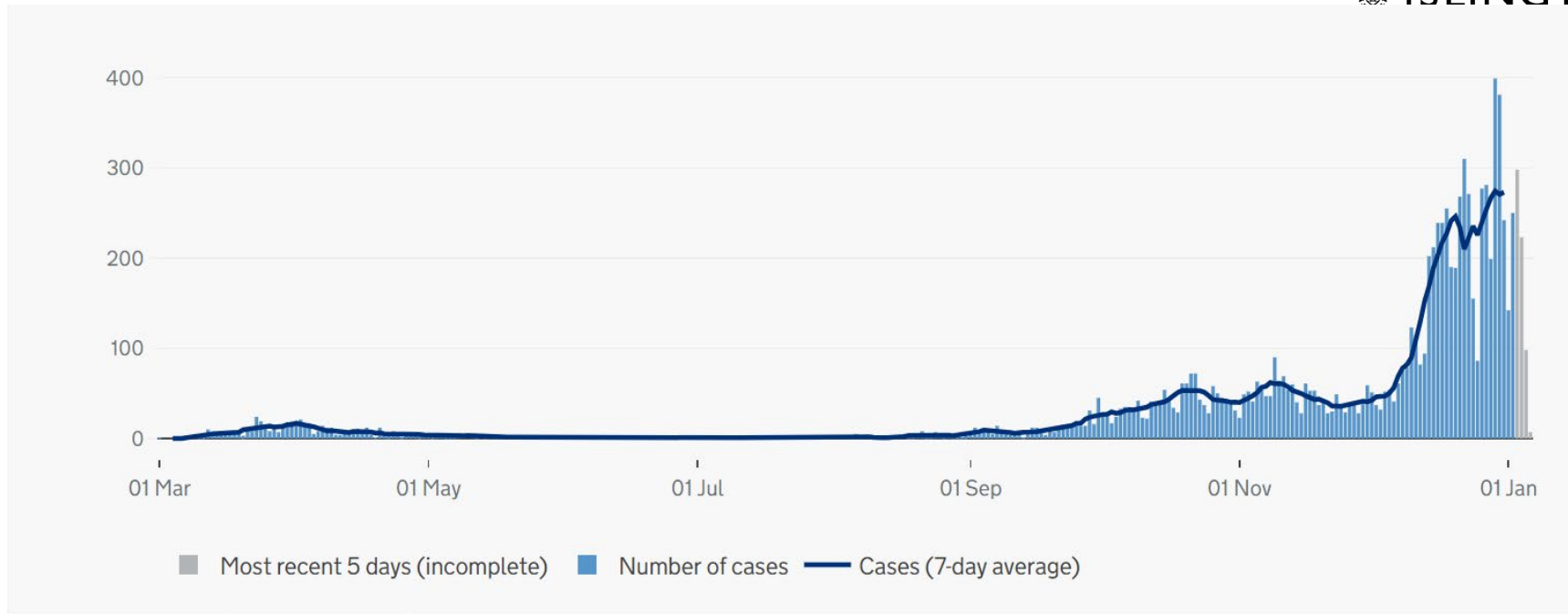
January 2021



- A brief summary of the local and national impact of COVID-19 to date
- An update on the current actions from the outbreak prevention and control plan

Brief summary of national and local impact of COVID- 19 to date

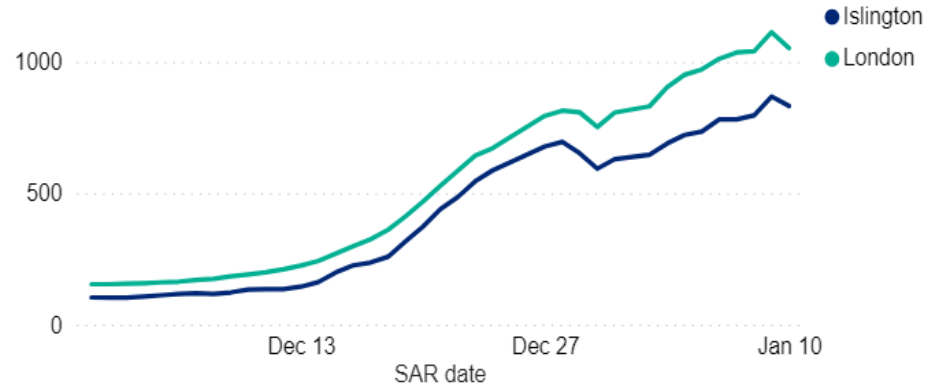
COVID-19 Cases in Islington



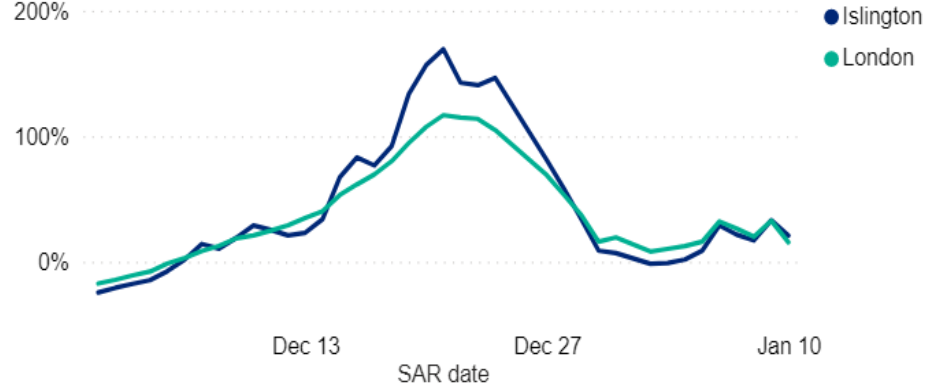
- As of 11th January 2021, there are a total of **9,053** laboratory confirmed cases in Islington.
- For the latest 7 day period (December 30th to 5th January 2021) Islington's rate is 832 per 100,000 population, an increase of 21% from the previous week. The overall London rate is 1052 per 100,000 population.
- For the latest 7 day period (December 30th to 5th January 2021) for people aged 60 and over is 892.8 per 100,000 an increase of 32% from previous week.
- The percentage of residents testing positive is currently 25.2%.

Trends in case rates, positivity and testing

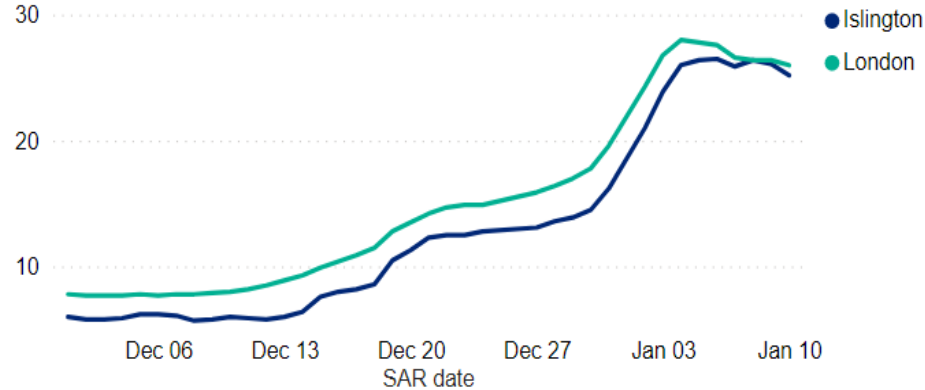
Case rate: weekly case rate per 100,000 (all ages)



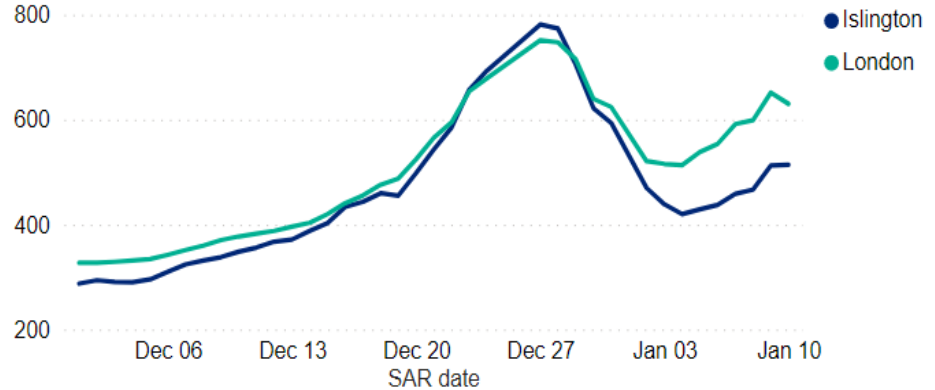
Case rate change: 7-day change in case rate (all ages)



Positivity: weekly percentage individuals test positive



Tests: daily individuals tested per 100,000 population - 7-day moving average



Ethnicity

- Of the cases with an ethnicity recorded, 62% are White and 38% are from a Black, Asian, Minority ethnic group (BAME), overall similar to the borough's profile.
- All ethnic groups have seen substantial increases in confirmed infections since the start of December, with initially more of an increase among residents from White communities, and then latterly more of an increase among residents identifying as Asian, Black, mixed and other white.

Age and gender

- Overall there are slightly more females who have been confirmed with COVID19 (53.2%) compared with males (46.1%).
- All age groups have seen a significant increase in the **number** of confirmed infections since the start of December; however the number of confirmed infections in 0-16 year olds peaked just before Christmas and has subsequently started to reduce.
- Over the past 6 weeks, the weekly distribution of cases shows a reduction in the **proportion** of Covid19 cases for those aged 0-16 but an increase in all other age groups, including those aged 65+. The overall age distribution is similar to the long term pattern of cases in the borough since the start of the pandemic.

Deprivation

- Deprivation data over the past three weeks shows a clear socioeconomic gradient, with infection rates highest in the most deprived and lowest in the least deprived areas.

Testing

Total tests

- As of 11th January 2021 there have been 70,293 pillar 1 tests, 94,835 pillar 2 tests and 7,271 LFD tests amongst Islington residents.
- Both Pillar 1 and Pillar 2 test decreased amongst Islington residents during the period between xmas and new year and is now on the increase.
- For the 7 day period 30th December to 5th of January Islington had a testing rate of 514.2 per 100,000, London's testing rate for the same period is 630.4 per 100,000

Ethnicity

- In the past 3 weeks (21st of December to 10th of January), the rate of testing has been highest amongst Other Ethnic and Bangladeshi groups, and lowest among Other Black.
- Positivity rates are highest among those with no recorded ethnicity, people from Other ethnic groups, and Other Black groups. This may indicate a need for more testing among these groups.

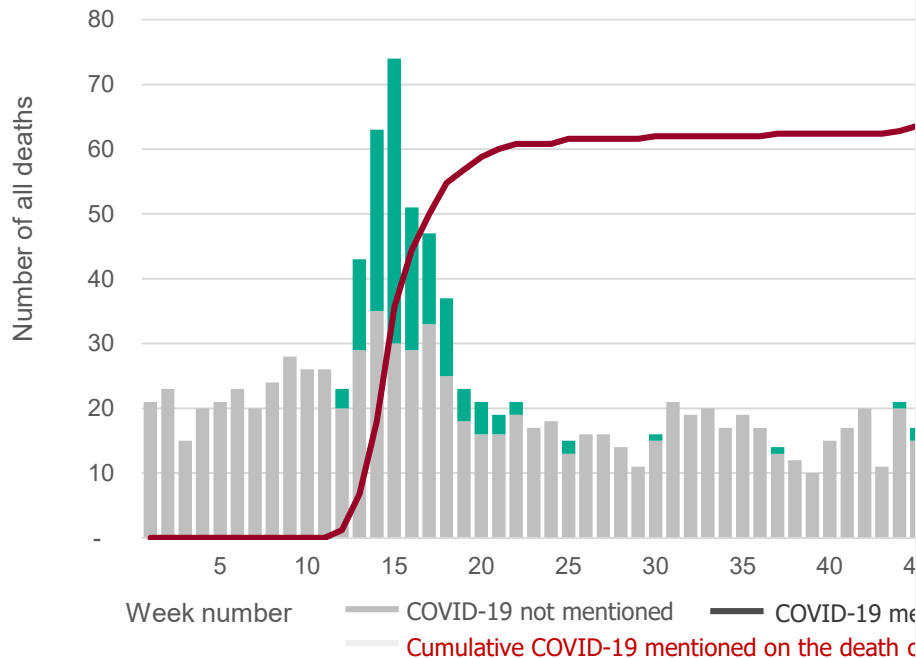
Age and gender

- Overall, testing has been higher among females (though with a slightly higher positivity rate amongst males).
- The testing rate overall to date is highest among those aged 90+ (driven by care home testing), and then the next highest rates are among those aged between 20-59.
- In the past 3 week testing rates have been highest amongst the 20-59 year olds.

Deprivation

- In the past 3 weeks there is no clear pattern of testing rates by deprivation quintile, which is broadly similar across all quintiles.

Deaths by cause of death (weekly numbers and cumulative), for deaths that occurred up to 25th December 2020 but were registered up to 2nd of January 2021



preceding week

The key challenges and priorities during the second national lockdown, and longer term

Targeted communication and engagement plan

- Weekly online community drop in's hosted by LBI, Cllrs and Public Health with VCS, mutual aid groups, MTSS (mother tongue supplementary schools), faith communities, Arabic, Somali, Bengali speaking communities have taken place to:
 - Enable them to ask questions, share concerns and suggest ideas for reaching their communities more effectively regarding Covid-19 health messaging (5 Jan session - @60 attendees)
 - Find out what they know about COVID, encourage testing and provide updates on the vaccination roll out
 - To share broader information about We Are Islington and signposting to local support services
- Weekly email briefing with key messages for community members, faith leaders and seldom heard groups to create content and share information. This includes video scripts, videos, graphics on social media, newsletters, translated materials etc.
- Additionally, the Communications team have translated leaflets into Bengali, Arabic and Somali and distributed existing communication materials produced by other organisations, including Doctors of the World, NHS and GLA videos & social media content. Translated materials also available here [Translations and BSL | Islington Council](#)
- Regular communication with BAMER and faith communities through VCS bulletins as part of the 'Local Outbreak Control - Communities Engagement Plan' with follow up calls.
- Engagement of BAMER, Older people groups re. Islington's Covid-19 Champions Training. Weekly briefings distributed to all Covid Champions
- Key health messages translated into community languages by local community organisations and shared through community whatsapp and other social media channels
- Identifying key influencers and trusted voices for seldom heard groups for next wave of community content e.g. vaccination roll out videos

SYMPTOMATIC TESTING

In order to increase accessibility of testing in Islington, a second walk-through testing site has been established at the Finsbury Leisure Centre in EC1, which follows the earlier opening of the Sobell Leisure Centre.

Testing rates have increased very significantly, putting pressure at peak periods on in-person testing at sites, especially in the run-up to Christmas. At all times, there has been access to postal kits.

ASYMPTOMATIC TESTING

Islington opened its first asymptomatic testing site at the Islington Assembly Hall before Christmas.

A second site opened at the start of the New Year, at the Vibast Community Centre in EC1, and a third at the Emirates opened on 13 January.

Further sites will become available as they are agreed to support geographic coverage and access.

A pilot in social care was overtaken by changes in national testing policy and the move to Tier 4 and then national lockdown, but we have continued to work with those services.

With the importance of the stay at home measure, the service is being oriented towards workers who do need to work out of the home and come into contact with others. We have established dedicated sessions at the test sites for primary school and early years staff. We have worked directly with secondary schools to set up their own local, in-school testing.



Local contact tracing

Local areas have been asked to support the NHS Test & Trace service by providing extra follow-up of people with confirmed cases of COVID-19 who the national service has not been able to contact.

Our local Test & Trace model is grounded in the **We are Islington model**, working closely with other teams, notably in adult social care. It therefore will take a holistic approach including follow-up of uncontacted cases and the **proactive offer of practical and wellbeing support**, based on a service which is engaged and responsive to community needs and works with a range of BAME community organisations and resources and support in languages other than English.

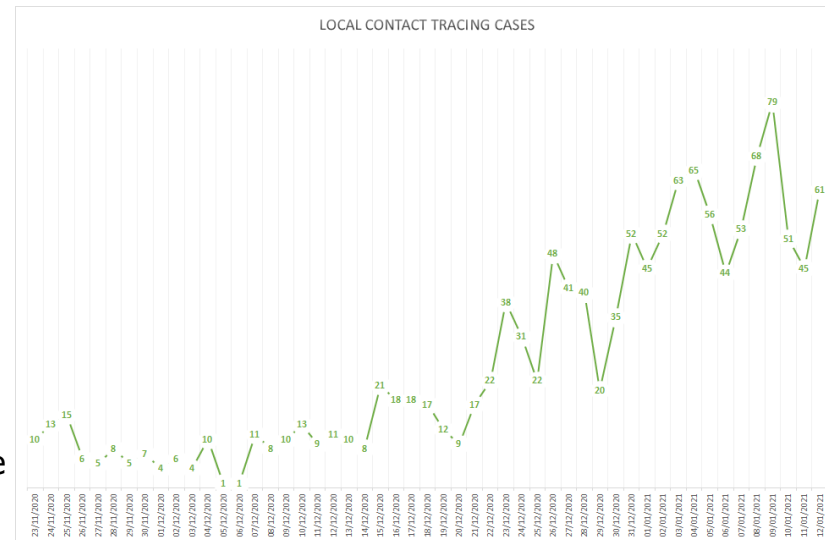
The service went live **November 23rd**. We have a call handling team who work **9am -7pm, 7 days a week**, and support workers (PPE and risk assessed), who knock on the doors of those we haven't been able to reach via phone, this part of the service operates **9am – 5pm, 7 days a week**.

Success rate: our **success rate is 83%**. Added to the contacts made by the national team, this lifts successful contact with residents with confirmed infections to a range of 90-95%.

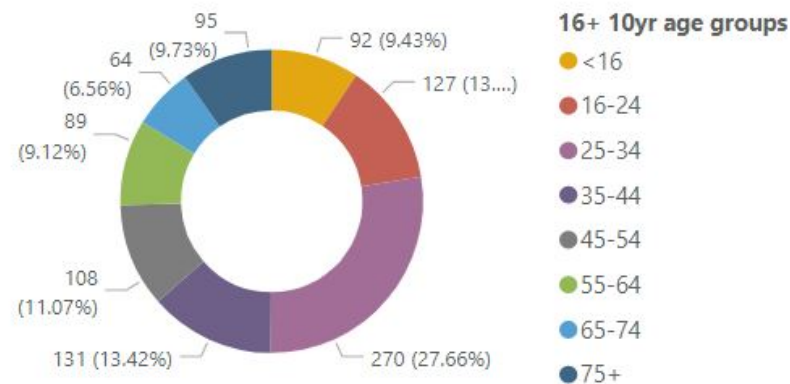
Case per day: we have seen an **increase** in cases since **24th December**.

Service provision: we are inducting a further **16 staff** who have been redeployed from Libraries to support with the increase. They will begin to work on cases from next week.

No. of cases since Go Live



Age ranges of cases since Go Live



The vaccination roll out began at the end of December and will be substantively ramping up over the coming weeks.

The NHS is prioritising the following people for vaccination until mid February, as agreed by the Joint Committee on Vaccinations and Immunisations:

- all residents in a care home for older adults and their carers
- all those 80 years of age and over and frontline health and social care workers
- all those 75 years of age and over
- all those 70 years of age and over and clinically extremely vulnerable individuals

All residents in our older people's care homes and extra care scheme have been offered the vaccine.

In Islington, there are two primary care centres giving vaccinations at Bingfield and Hanley Road practices. Local hospitals are also vaccinating health and care workers, those in hospital and those in priority groups visiting for appointments. The Business Design Centre will be Islington's large vaccination site (from February) and it is expected that there will also be a number of pharmacies giving vaccines.

The council is working collaboratively with the NHS to ensure:

- vaccination of our care homes and care workers
- equity in access to vaccination sites and equity in uptake of vaccination
- communications and engagement to residents, and particularly to those groups who have may have lower uptake because of vaccine hesitancy

Protection of our care homes, domiciliary social care and the NHS

Supporting providers to implement the latest infection control guidance and best practice:

Communication of key guidance changes and updates via a weekly bulletin.

Regular provider forums to share best practice.

Support from the local public health team and working in partnership with adult social care commissioners where any possible or confirmed cases are identified to ensure infection control measures are swiftly implemented.

The Council is regularly reviewing its local care home visitation position in line with national guidance and the local context. The Council is supportive of COVID-secure screened or outdoor visits, except if the home is in an outbreak. The Council is not currently recommending indoor visits supported by use Lateral Flow Test Device, except in exceptional circumstances.

Routine testing of residents and staff:

Supporting and monitoring regular testing of staff and residents in care homes for older people, and people with mental health conditions or learning disability.

Participated in a pilot for one off testing of staff and residents in Extra Care and Supported Living, with additional local testing capacity identified to continue monthly testing in these settings until an announcement on the national offer is made.

Explore potential within developments around test technology and capacity to expand routine testing to other adult social care staff.

No admissions of residents who have tested positive for Covid-19 and still infectious into care homes:

Development of agreed protocol across hospitals and Local Authorities within North Central London so that no residents are admitted to a care home while still in their isolation period following a positive Covid-19 test.