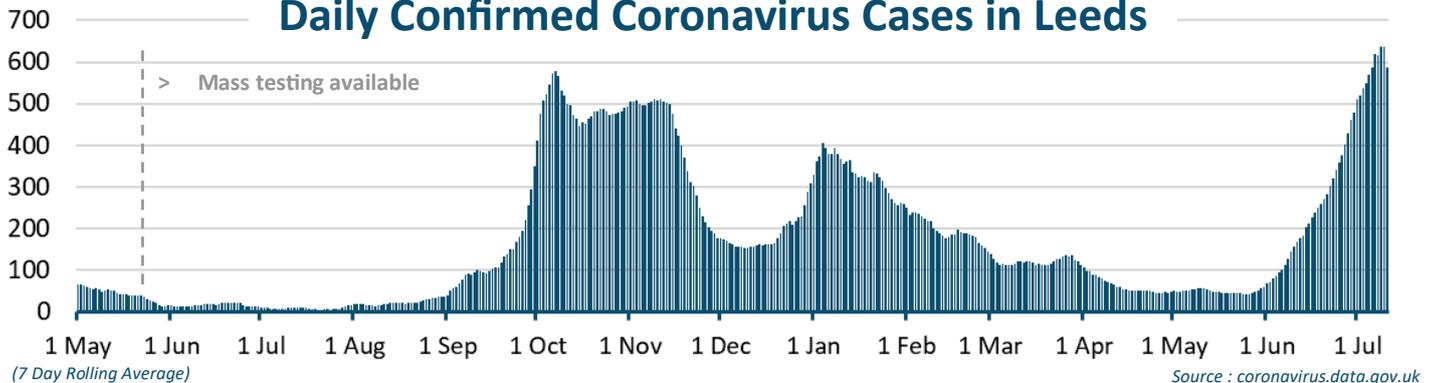


Coronavirus Update - LEEDS

Report - 12 July 2021

Daily Confirmed Coronavirus Cases in Leeds



Headlines for Leeds

The Prime Minister has confirmed a lifting of Coronavirus restrictions on the 19th July, at the time of writing the precise nature of the revised government guidance is not fully known. The usual email update will be provided to partners.

The Covid-19 case rate has continued its recent upward trend as in many other parts of the country, driven by the Delta variant. The latest 7 day average per 100,000 reported for the overall Leeds case rate is at 545.7 per 100,000 (423.3 a week before), with rates of persons aged 60+ at 114.3.

The latest regional average is 420.0 (283.5 a week before).

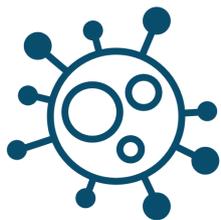
Vaccination rates in Leeds record that as of the 12 July 2021 a total of 527,909 GP registered patients have received their first vaccination, this is an increase of over 59,000 since the last Gold report on 14th June. Of the 527,909 patients mentioned above, 426,498 have now received their 2nd dose.

Re-opening has continued its momentum, the latest West Yorkshire Chambers of Commerce survey shows a rebound in

business confidence, recruitment and investment in Q2. The proportion of workers on furlough has also fallen, with 8% of eligible jobs furloughed at the end of May in West Yorkshire, the lowest level since the scheme started.

Footfall levels have stabilised, after very strong growth during May and June, interestingly according to the Chambers' survey, half of businesses envisage a mixed approach in returning to the workplace, with home working as a regularly option.

Leeds is currently recording the following figures



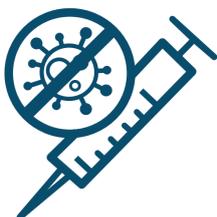
545.7 Cases rate
per 100,000 people
(7 day rolling average)



1 Current Case
Reported in a Care
Home in Leeds



1639 Registered Deaths
That mention Covid-19, with
none registered in last 2 weeks



527,909 vaccinated
Registered patients
within Leeds



49 Covid-19 related
Incidents reported to West
Yorkshire Police in last 7 days



27.9 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
Average NO₂ levels.
Below UK target of 40 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

Health and Social Care Impact & Recovery

545.7

Cases rate
per 100,000 people
(7 day rolling average)¹

1

Current Cases
Reported active in
Leeds care homes²

41

Covid-19 Beds
Currently occupied at
LTHT hospitals²

0

Registered Deaths
mentioning Covid-19
occurring over the
last 14 days³

Health Summary

Infection Rates¹

The latest 7 day average per 100,000 reported for the overall Leeds case rate is at 545.7 per 100,000 (423.3 a week before), with rates of persons aged 60+ at 114.3.

The latest regional average is 420.0 (283.5 a week before).

Vaccinations²

As of the 12th July 2021 a total of 527,909 GP registered patients in Leeds have received their first vaccine dose, this equates to 73.7% of the registered population of Leeds.

More than half of all 16+ GP registered population have now received their second dose. (426,498 Overall (59.5%))

Covid-19 Cases²

As of the 12th July, the number of COVID positive patients in beds at LTHT is 41, LYPFT has no COVID positive patients recorded in a bed on the 12th.

This week has seen 22 positive COVID tests carried out within hospitals (comparable with 24 last week); no positive tests were from LYPFT hospitals.

There are currently 8 positive COVID patients in a HDU/ITU bed in LTHT

Care Homes²

There is currently only 1 active COVID-19 case declared in care homes across Leeds. Although there was a small surge near the end of June, cases only increased to a maximum concurrent total of 11 and reduced back to 1 case over the course of only 3 weeks.

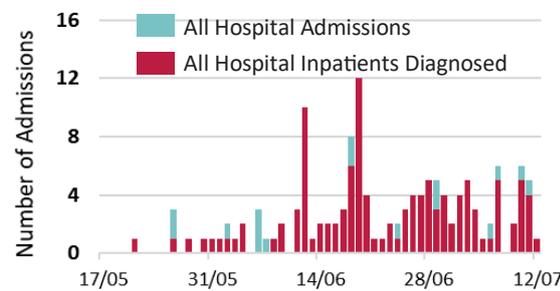
Registered Deaths in Leeds³

As of 11th June 2021, a total of 1,639 COVID-19 related deaths had been registered by Leeds Registrars Office.

They last Covid-19 death in Leeds was recorded to have occurred on the 24th June*.

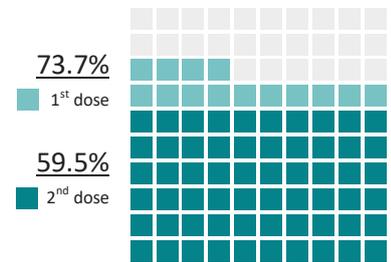
*At time of publication

New Covid19 Admissions and Inpatients

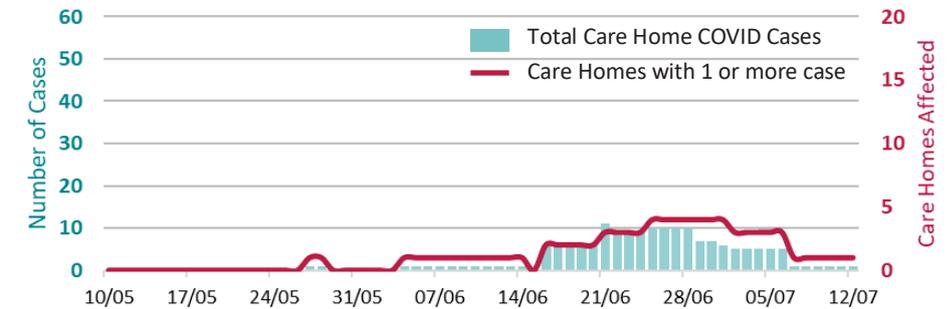


People Vaccinated

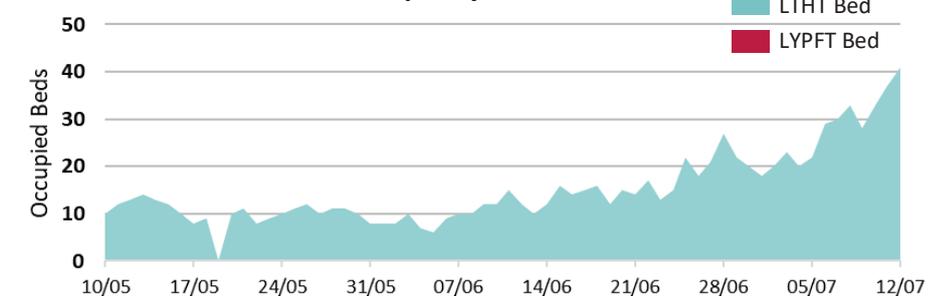
Percentage of GP registered population



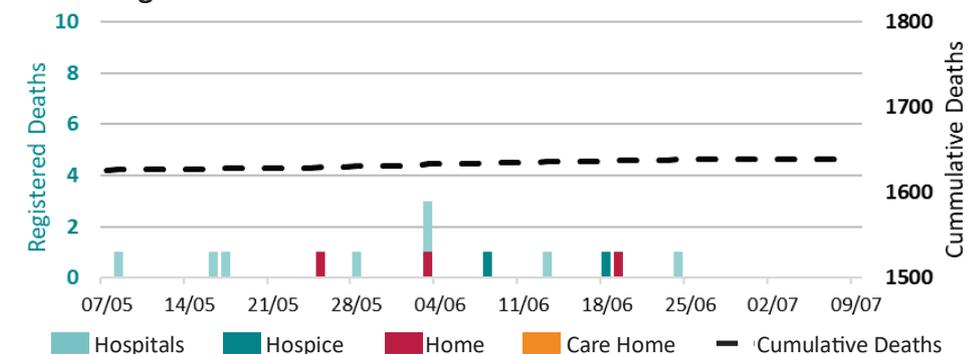
Covid19 Cases in Care Homes



Confirmed Covid19 Bed Occupancy



Deaths registered with LCC that mention Covid19



Sources:

- Public Health Intelligence - 12/07/21
- NHS Clinical Commissioning Group - 12/07/21
- Leeds Registrars Office - 09/07/21

Citizens & Community



49

Covid-19
Related incidents
recorded over last
7 days¹



504

Domestic
Incidents recorded over
last 7 days¹



75%

Pupils in schools
Average attendance
during the last week



£2.08
Million

In Self-Isolation
Support payments paid
to successful applicants³

Citizens & Community Summary

Incidents and Crimes Overview¹

As lockdown measures continue to be eased across the country, total crime levels are remaining steady. Covid Incidents have declined to very low levels in recent weeks, most likely due to the relaxation of related legislations.

Domestic Incidents have unfortunately seen a slight increase, although there is no way of knowing for sure if this is related to changes to Covid19 legislations. Previous studies have shown increases in incidents during major football tournaments, and may have affected numbers during the UEFA European Football Championships which ran until 11th July

Children & Education²

Overall attendance during week of 5 July 2021 was 75%, the lowest since schools re-opened to all pupils in March 2021.

All COVID-19 related absence increased from an average of 9% in the week of 24 June to 17% in week of 5 July 2021.

79% of all COVID-19 related absence is due to potential contact in setting, with a further 13% due to potential contact in the community. Whilst increasing, a much smaller proportion are reported to be absent due to confirmed COVID-19 (4%) or suspected COVID-19 (3%)

Self Isolation Payments³

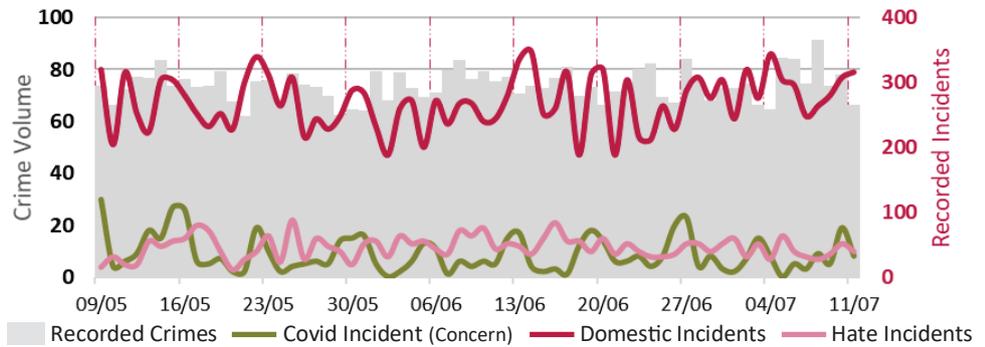
Last week LCC received 939 forms, a 5% increase on the previous week. This is lower than a recent spike in numbers caused by the increase in Covid-19 cases related to the Delta variant.

During the month of June, LCC received over four times as many claims as they did in May. Training of 10 additional officers is helping to deal with this increase in demand.

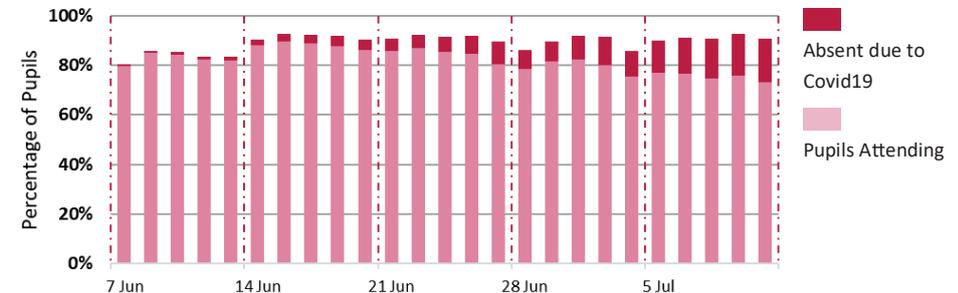
Waste Management & Recycling⁴

Tonnage of waste and recycling collected at the kerbside throughout this period continues to be higher than normal. For the last two months black bin waste in particular has now been holding around 12% to 16% higher than historic levels. Crews continue to be stood down where a staff member becomes symptomatic.

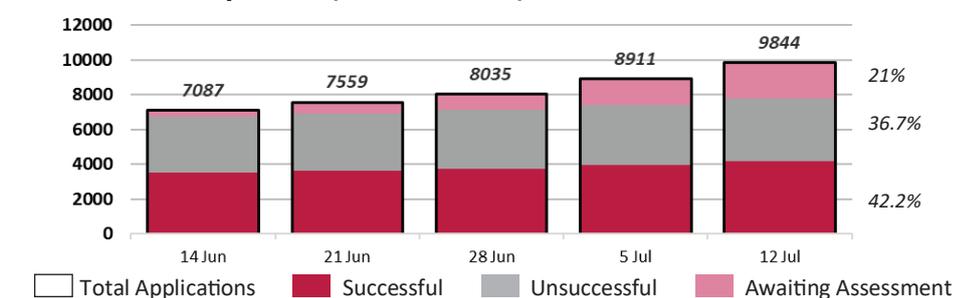
Crimes and Incidents



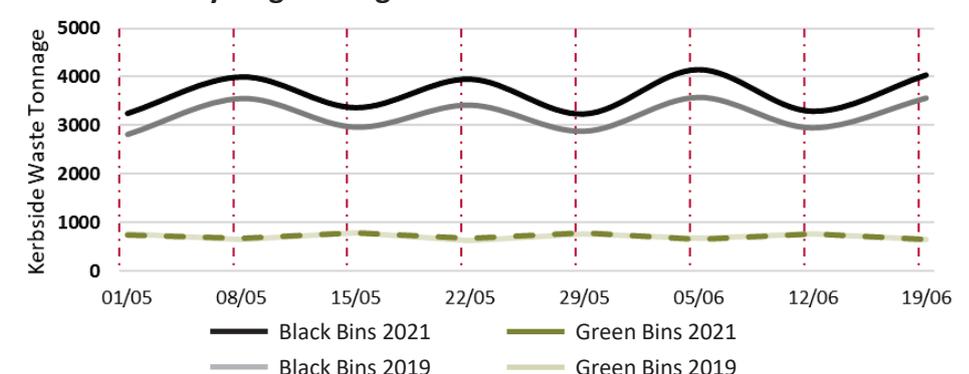
Percentage of pupils on roll attending lessons



Self Isolation Payments (accumulative)



Waste and Recycling Tonnage



Sources:
1. Safer Leeds - 12/07/21
2. DfE education settings survey - 12/07/21
3. Leeds City Council Financial inclusion Team 12/07/21
4. Leeds City Council Environment Team - 12/07/21

Infrastructure & Supplies



Traffic Flow
Compared to recorded traffic flow in 2019/20¹



Average Footfall
In Leeds City centre in comparison to 2020¹



Thousand
MCard uses in the last week¹



12 Months NO²
Levels, compared to the previous 12 months

Infrastructure & Supplies Summary

Traffic & Pedestrian Flow ¹

Since the reopening of non-essential retail and outdoor hospitality there has been a significant increase in city-centre footfall, especially over the weekends. Levels have fluctuated around 70% of what would usually be expected at this time of year.

Traffic flows had shown a gradual increase during April, but over the last few weeks have plateaued around 85% of pre-Covid levels.

M-Card use has levelled out in recent weeks and may not see a further increase until social distancing and other protective measures are lifted on public transport.

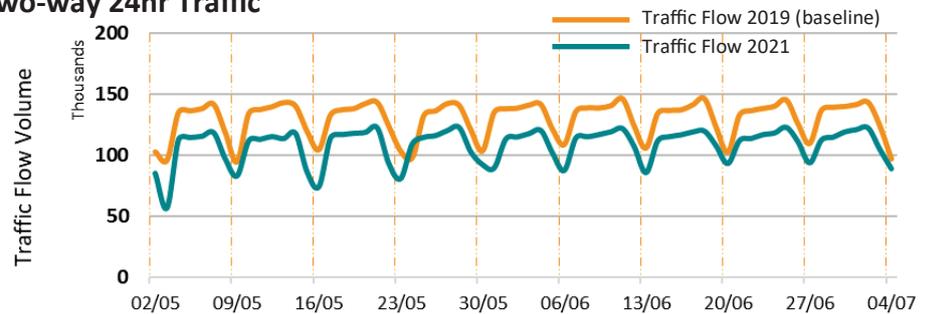
Leeds Air Quality (March 2020)²

The plot to the lower right shows the monthly mean Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) for all the Leeds air quality monitoring sites.

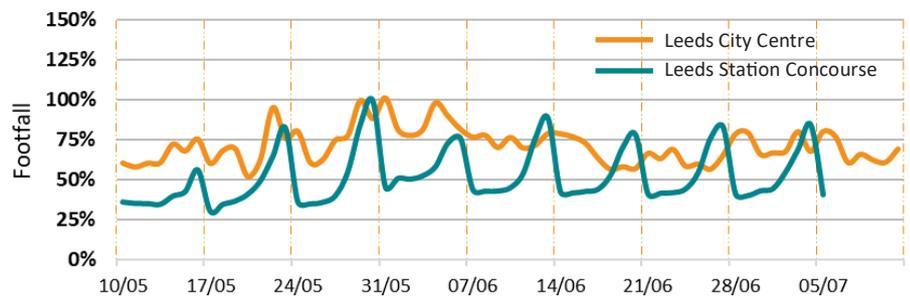
The effect of both national lockdowns shows a dramatic reduction across all sites in Leeds and the City Centre area.

Over the last 12 months NO₂ levels in Leeds were recorded, on average, at 21% lower than the same period in 2019, having not raised higher than the National Objective of 40 µg m⁻³ since December 2019.

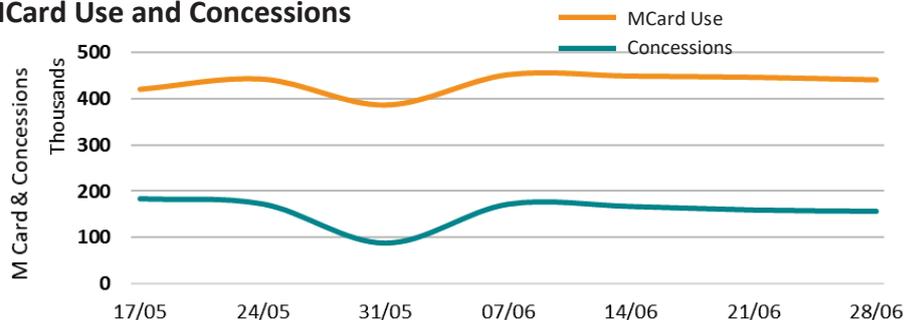
Two-way 24hr Traffic



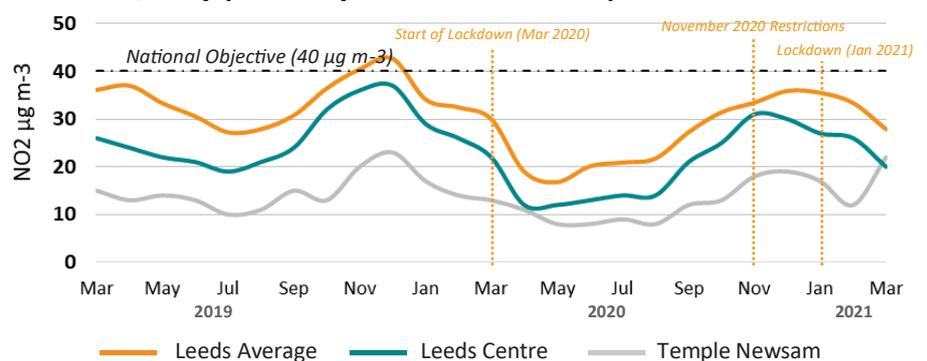
Percentage of Expected Footfall



MCard Use and Concessions



Leeds Air Quality (February 2019 - March 2020)



Sources:

1. West Yorkshire Combined Authority - 12/07/21
2. Leeds City Council - APRIL 2021

Economy and Business



**Out of Work
Benefits Claimant
Count²**



**Employees
Are back in their usual
workplace.**

Economy and Business¹

Re-opening has continued its momentum, the latest West Yorkshire Chambers of Commerce survey shows a rebound in business confidence, recruitment and investment in Q2. The proportion of workers on furlough has also fallen with 8% of eligible jobs furloughed at the end of May in West Yorkshire, the lowest level since the scheme started.

The survey also looked at the return to the workplace, half of businesses survey envisage a mixed approach, with home working as a regularly option. According to the ONS the proportion of people in their usual workplace at the end of June was 64%, the highest point since comparable data began in June 2020.

Public transport use has remained fairly stable in recent weeks, with bus use at around 50%, and train use at around 40% of baselines respectively.

Employment

There has been a fall in Out of Work Benefit claimants, with 34,695 people claiming Out of Work Benefits (6.7%) in May, down 1,500 from April, though still above regional (6.2%) and national rates (6.0 %).

LCC's financial position¹

As reported to the Executive Board on 23rd June, the final Outturn position for the financial year 2020/21 was an underspend of £1.1m, which allowed for a contribution to the Council's general reserve.

The position remains challenging. The 2021/22 Budget, received at February's Executive Board, requires the delivery of Directorate savings proposals of £56.1m and a range of other measures to deliver £31.4m of assumed increases in funding and reductions in costs. The first Financial Health report for the year will be received by July's Executive Board meeting.

The updated Medium Term Financial Strategy, covering the 5 years from 2022/23 to 2026/27, will be reported to Executive Board in September 2021. As reported in the 2021/22 Budget Report the Council continues to face a significant financial challenge, with budget gaps of £65.7m and £34.2m currently projected for 2022/23 and 2023/24 respectively.

The Government announced a four week delay in the lifting of most Coronavirus restrictions on 14th June. However, to date key funding support for local authorities, including support for the general impact of COVID on local authority expenditure and for losses of Sales, Fees and Charges income have not been extended beyond the planned end date of 30th June 2021.

On 22nd June Government announced the extension of the COVID-19 Local Support Grant to the end of September. An additional £160 million of funding will be made available nationally, with the Leeds allocation of £2.67m being used to provide free school meals during the 2021 school summer holidays.

An additional £251.3m of funding has been provided nationally to extend the Infection Control and Testing Fund to the end of September 2021. The funding is made up of £142.5 million for infection control and £108.8 million for testing to protect people in adult social care as restrictions are eased, and supporting rapid, regular testing of staff to prevent COVID-19 transmission. Leeds will receive £2.99m, £1.69m for infection control and £1.29m for rapid testing. 70% of the total allocation must be passported to residential and community care providers. Local authorities have the discretion to target the allocation of the remaining 30% on other for the care sector, including supporting other care settings and providing additional support to care providers who are currently experiencing an outbreak.

On 8th July Government announced a new £24m Children's Social Care COVID-19 Regional Recovery and Building Back Better Fund to support projects tackling issues facing vulnerable children and accelerate the roll-out of more family hubs. Funding will be distributed among the English regions, with each region allocated between £2 and £3 million, including a flat rate of £50,000 for each region to help councils in accommodating unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.

Local Authorities have been given an extra month to distribute business support grants, with a new deadline at the end of July.

Sources:

1. Leeds City Council - 14/06/21
2. Department for Work and Pensions - MAY 2021

Policy Announcements

14 June 2021

New analysis by PHE shows that two doses of Covid-19 vaccines are highly effective against hospitalisation from the Delta variant.

[Source: www.gov.uk \(webpage\)](https://www.gov.uk)

An easing of visiting restrictions to care homes announced, with care home residents permitted to spend more time with family and friends, including overnight stays, and residents allowed to leave the home for more social reasons without having to isolate. From 21 June, people admitted to a care home from the community do not have to self-isolate for 14 days on arrival, with this measure supported by PCR testing.

[Source: www.gov.uk \(webpage\)](https://www.gov.uk)

16 June 2021

Measures to protect commercial tenants from eviction if they are unable to pay their rent due to being closed during the pandemic are extended to 25 March 2022.

[Source: www.gov.uk \(webpage\)](https://www.gov.uk)

Following public consultation, new legislation means that, from October, anyone working in a CQC-registered care home in England for residents requiring nursing or personal care must have two doses of a Covid-19 vaccine unless they have a medical exemption.

[Source: www.gov.uk \(webpage\)](https://www.gov.uk)

21 June 2021

Enhanced testing deployed in Leeds following a rise in confirmed cases of the Delta variant in Headingley & Hyde Park and Little London & Woodhouse wards.

[Source: www.gov.uk \(webpage\)](https://www.gov.uk)

24 June 2021

Findings from the REACT-2 studies of over half a million adults shows that over a third of people who had Covid-19 experienced symptoms lasting at least 12 weeks. It is estimated that over 2 million people in England have experienced long Covid and that its prevalence increases with age. The study found that long Covid is more prevalent among women, people who are overweight or obese, who smoke, who live in deprived areas, or had been admitted to hospital.

[Source: www.gov.uk \(webpage\)](https://www.gov.uk)

25 June 2021

The report of the Events Research Programme is published, concluding that, with mitigating factors, such as social distancing at pinch points, face coverings and staggered entry and exit times, events can be conducted more safely at increased capacities while maintaining a low risk of transmission.

[Source: www.gov.uk \(webpage\)](https://www.gov.uk)

27 June 2021

£250 million of funding announced for adult social care to continue to fund infection prevention and control measures and regular testing of staff, extending the Infection Control Fund until the end of September.

[Source: www.gov.uk \(webpage\)](https://www.gov.uk)

30 June 2021

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) issued its interim advice that Covid-19 booster vaccines may be required from September for the people most vulnerable to Covid-19 in order to maintain protection over the winter. The final JCVI advice will be published before September. In response to the interim advice, the government is working with the NHS to ensure that if a booster campaign happens, it can be deployed rapidly from September.

[Source: www.gov.uk \(webpage\)](https://www.gov.uk)

The Oxford University-led Com-COV study found alternating doses of the Oxford -AZ and Pfizer vaccines generate a robust immune response.

[Source: www.ssrn.com \(webpage\)](https://www.ssrn.com)

2 July 2021

The Treasury shared that 2.4 million workers came off furlough between the end of February to the end of May. The scheme is due to end in September and employers will begin to pay more over the summer months.

[Source: www.gov.uk \(webpage\)](https://www.gov.uk)

5 July 2021

The Prime Minister set out plans to end Covid restrictions in England from Step 4 of the roadmap, to take place no sooner than 19 July, subject to a review of the data. This includes an end to social distancing and limits on gatherings; all venues can open without capacity limits, and face coverings will no longer be mandatory. The government reviews into social distancing and Covid-status certification concluded that the 1m plus rule will be lifted other than in specific places such as at the border, and there will be no legal requirement on the use of Covid-status certification as a condition of entry for visitors to any domestic setting.

[Source: www.gov.uk \(webpage\)](https://www.gov.uk)

6 July 2021

From 16 August, people who have received both vaccinations, and under 18s, will no longer need to self-isolate if they are identified as a close contact of someone with Covid-19, but will be advised to take a PCR test. Anyone who tests positive following the PCR test will still be legally required to self-isolate, irrespective of their vaccination status.

[Source: www.gov.uk \(webpage\)](https://www.gov.uk)

Health and Care Bill introduced to Parliament with proposals for an Integrated Care Board and an Integrated Care Partnership for each part of England, responsible for bringing together local NHS and local government to deliver joined up care for local populations.

[Source: www.gov.uk \(webpage\)](https://www.gov.uk)

As part of Step 4 of the roadmap, expected to take place on 19 July, school 'bubbles' will end and schools will not be required to implement social distancing or staggered start and finish times, although they can continue existing arrangements until the end of term if they wish. Protective measures will remain in place for the autumn term in all education settings including practicing good hygiene, ventilation, and regular testing.

[Source: www.gov.uk \(webpage\)](https://www.gov.uk)

7 July 2021

Findings from three studies on the real-world use of lateral flow device tests have confirmed their effectiveness under a variety of conditions, including variants of concern; patients with high/low viral loads; part of mass testing campaigns; when used by inexperienced users; and with different swab types.

[Source: www.gov.uk \(webpage\)](https://www.gov.uk)

8 July 2021

Interim findings from REACT-1, one of the largest studies into Covid-19 infections in England, found that, in the under-65s, Covid-19 infection rates are three times lower for people who have received both vaccinations.

[Source: www.gov.uk \(webpage\)](https://www.gov.uk)

From 19 July, people returning to England from an amber list country will no longer need to quarantine if they have been fully vaccinated with an NHS administered vaccine at least 14 days ago, or if they are on a formally approved UK vaccine clinical trial. Children under 18 will be exempt from quarantine on return from amber list countries, and the recommendation that people do not travel to amber list countries will be removed from 19 July.

[Source: www.gov.uk \(webpage\)](https://www.gov.uk)

DHSC continues to work with manufacturers on the development of transparent face masks that meet the required standards to be used in health and care settings.

[Source: www.gov.uk \(webpage\)](https://www.gov.uk)

Communications Update

Website Visits:

Around 9,300 visited the COVID information web pages last week, of which 7,600 were unique users, consistent with the previous report.

The GovDelivery Covid email bulletin, which was sent out to 112K residents on 11th June, had an open rate of 24% (consistent with previous report). Most popular features included: information about walk-in vaccination clinics in Leeds, the #LeedsSaysThanks initiative, and the NHS vaccination booking page.

Communications Update:

This update was being produced ahead of Monday's planned Government press conference that was widely expected to announce the release of all restrictions as part of the Roadmap progress from July 19.

However, there were indications in the run-up to the announcement that the Government was planning to re-emphasise on some of the safety aspects and ministers were beginning to suggest that elements of mask-wearing and social distancing may be retained.

This approach to messaging can present challenges in directing resources and planning our own messages in preparation for July 19. What is clear though is that we will need to continue to advise caution in the face of rising rates combined with easing rules.

We are also concerned that less clear national guidance could result in people becoming polarised in their perspectives of how they and others should behave. We are therefore re-focusing our main campaign messaging on a respect for others-based theme. This is to address potential divisions where mask-wearing and social distancing become optional.

By gently nudging people to keep doing the right thing with subtle suggestions on making space or keeping things fresh while respecting others' decisions we can keep the Together Leeds campaign themes consistent. This also allows us to adopt stronger messaging where needed to target specific cohorts or areas where rates continue to rise.

Alongside this we have also been reviewing the signage around the major city centre and local retail and footfall areas. Rules-based information will be replaced with updated guidance in line with the above principles.

Other work includes:

Enhanced testing wrapped up last week – infographic produced which highlights results of the programme. CCG testing page also updated to reflect programme end.

Now planning for flu and booster vaccine (for autumn).

As of the end of last week there were still around 40k people in cohorts 1-9 who were unvaccinated, hence comms continues to focus on the vaccine.

Meanwhile, communications colleagues across sectors continue to focus on specific pressures and proactive work, such as NHS managing expectations about the easing of restrictions and being 'back to normal' as rules will still be in place in health and care settings.

Universities are preparing for possible return to in-person teaching and student return and voluntary sector colleagues have been busy supporting shoring up volunteer networks and actively promoting June's "month of community" and thank-you day events.

They are also anticipating the review of the community champions role, continuing to promote the *Be Collective* volunteer platform and remain involved in city-wide conversations.

Social media listening:

Local discussions outside the general national conversation?

- A few queries from people who have applied for self-isolation grant and not heard anything back.
- Questions about whether the waste recycling centre booking system will be removed after 19th July.
- Leeds hospitals at capacity again due to COVID cases and having to cancel scheduled non-COVID related routine procedures. Many mentions about cancelling cancer treatments too.

Popular topics and questions being shared and discussed regularly?

- Sharing for latest Covid rates in the city, with some expressing concern over how the rates continue to rise.
- Sharing for walk-in vaccination services in the city.
- People complaining about lack of social distancing on public transport.

What conversations, topics & questions are we starting to see an increase in?

- Concerns around masks not being mandatory in coming weeks.
- General chat about end of restrictions.
- People urged to bring their second dose forward to 8 weeks (instead of 12).
- Reports on a high number of inaccurate positive lateral flow test results due to the sensitivity of the tests.

What are the feelings, behaviours and beliefs from people on the key and emerging themes?

- Lots of interest in walk-in vaccine services in the city, with people increasingly interested in using them for getting their second dose.
- Concern around how rates in Leeds are continuing to rise.
- Concern over restrictions ending next week.
- Concern about surgeries (particularly cancer related surgeries) being cancelled due to high numbers of Covid cases.