

COVID-19 OPCE Report

Outbreak Prevention and Control Executive

Outbreak Prevention and Control Plan

Southwark Public Health Division

29th October 2020

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This OPCE report gives a brief summary of key information on COVID-19 in Southwark

BACKGROUND

Coronaviruses are common globally and have been known to cause infection to humans. COVID-19 is a new strain of coronavirus first identified in Wuhan City, China.

- Typical symptoms include fever and cough, and may progress to severe pneumonia with breathing difficulties.
- Symptoms are mild in most people, but a number of groups are classed as 'extremely vulnerable' to coronavirus, including:
 - Solid organ transplant patients
 - Those with certain cancers
 - Those with severe respiratory conditions
 - Those on immunosuppression therapies
 - Those with rare health conditions that increase the risk of infection

This report gives key information on the COVID-19 impact in Southwark, and the local response.

Reference

1. DHSC and PHE (2020) Coronavirus: latest information and advice. Available from: www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19

New COVID-19 case rates are rising steeply in Southwark, London and England

HEADLINE FIGURES

4,379

Pillar 2 community tests in the week to 24 October

6.7%

Individuals testing positive in week to 22 October

435

New COVID-19 cases in week to 22 October

3,104

Total COVID-19 cases as at 25 October

255

Total COVID-19 related deaths as at 16 October

Figure 1: Confirmed daily cases in Southwark

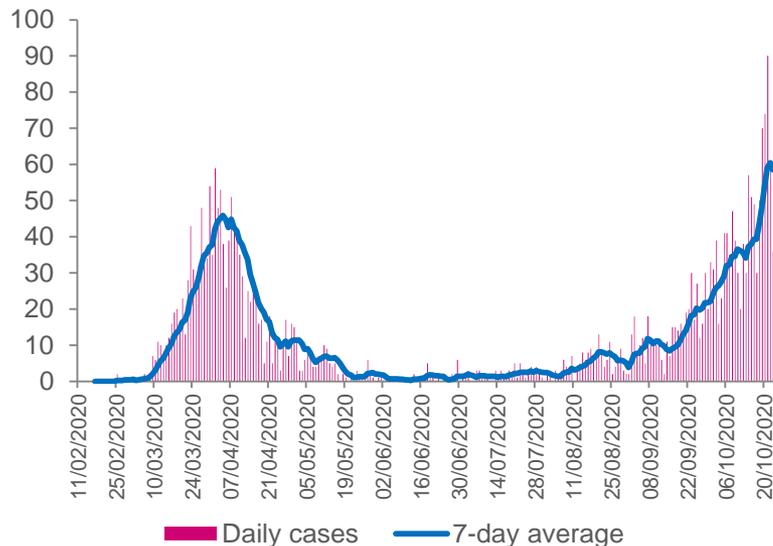


Figure 2: Weekly incidence rate per 100,000 population



References

1. NHS Digital COVID-19 Local Authority Testing Dashboard. Data up to 24 Oct.
2. PHE London Situation Awareness Report. Data to 22 Oct.
3. PHE. London Daily Centre Report. Data to 25 Oct.
4. ONS. Deaths registered in England and Wales, provisional: week ending 16 Oct 2020.

The OPCE Report is structured around the three key strands, and supporting workstreams, of the OPCP

OUTBREAK PREVENTION & CONTROL PLAN

The OPCP is structured around three main strands (Prevent, Identify and Control) and the three cross-cutting workstreams.

AIM: Mitigate the impact of novel coronavirus on Southwark's population and communities, focusing on those most at risk.

ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATIONS

PREVENT

Work with communities and settings to prevent transmission, focusing on those with greatest vulnerability

IDENTIFY

Collate and interpret data to ensure that cases, clusters and outbreaks of disease are promptly identified and those affected appropriately supported

CONTROL

Manage outbreaks by providing health protection advice and the institution of control measures (for individuals and communities) so as to prevent onward transmission

INTELLIGENCE , EVIDENCE & EPIDEMIOLOGY

TRAINING & CAPACITY BUILDING

References

1. Southwark's Outbreak Prevention and Control Plan (OPCP), ([link](#))

Summary of key developments and next steps in Prevent workstream over the last 7 days

PREVENT – GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS

Workstream Activities / Updates

For residents

- Updating communications to reflect London moving to the High alert level, and the implications for residents.
- Increased outdoor advertising, as well as continued use of the e-newsletter to increase awareness on testing, self-isolation, the NHS app, and directing residents to the available support resources.

Internally

- Articles on the Source added in October looking at World Mental Health Day during COVID, and the NHS COVID app.

Looking ahead

- Working on Southwark Life (November) and finalising articles and features.
- Introducing messaging around Halloween and staying safe.
- Reviewing what financial resources are available to Southwark residents and collecting them into a single resource page.
- Continuing to look at mental health, and working with Community Southwark and VCS organisations to improve mental health support.

Summary of key developments and next steps in Prevent workstream over the last 7 days

PREVENT – TARGETED COMMUNICATIONS & ENGAGEMENT

Workstream Activities / Updates

Businesses

- The Business FAQs and key messages have been published on the Council website.
- Weekly comms to over 5000 businesses on effective prevention and available business support.
- A meeting of BIDs and their members took place on 30 Sept. They were provided with an update on the current COVID-19 situation in Southwark, explanation of current guidance and regulation as well as the COVID-19 Compliant Business Accreditation scheme, and signposting to support and good practice on health and wellbeing for employees.

VCS

- Ongoing engagement with faith organisations and planning the next steps after the Better Health Workshop on the 12th of October.
- Outlining the application criteria for the OCP Grants programme.

Community Health Ambassadors

- Webpage and signup link available on the Community Southwark website, awaiting a similar website on the Councils site.
- First volunteers have signed up and recruitment continuing through various VCS networks.
- Review of the first draft of the induction pack planned for the end of this week

Housing

- Working closely with housing officers to update and distribute posters informing residents about the Tier 2 restrictions.

Universities/Young people

- Close partnership working with schools, HE and FE institutions.

Looking ahead

- Planning to have the 1st training session for Ambassadors in the next 2 to 3 weeks.
- Updating messages to account for new government system (tiers, what they mean etc.), whilst maintaining non-changing messages (mask, handwashing, rule of six etc.).
- Increasing reach to businesses in middle and south of the borough not covered by BIDs.
- Preparing content for Southwark Life on support on loneliness and mental health.

Author(s): Simon Marcus , Public Health / Kim Hooper, Comms/ Danny Edwards, Local Economy Team

Summary of key developments and next steps in Identify workstream over the last 7 days

IDENTIFY

Test and Trace Southwark (TTS)

- NHS Test & Trace enables us to monitor the spread of COVID-19 through the testing of suspected cases and tracing of recent close contacts.
- As at 27 October, 1,877 local cases and 4,673 contacts have been identified.
- In the week to 22 October, 397 local cases and 1000 contacts were reported by NHS

Workstream Activities / Updates

- TTS has operated a seven day service since 21 September 2020, with a staff rota agreed up till the end of December 2020.
- Volatility of referrals from the national team has improved, with an average of 11 cases referred per day.
- Operational risks continue to include inappropriate referrals from the national team and delays in transfer, with the average time between test and referral to the Southwark team of 5.7 days.
- From 26th October 2020, TTS has started to trial the use of text messaging prior to attempted phone calls using Gov. Notify, to help improve chances of successfully contacting cases.

Looking ahead

- TTS will be piloting a door-knocking service in early November. Work is currently underway to agree SOPs and risk assessments.
- Work is also underway to on-board Southwark Council's Call Centre staff into TTS, to help improve service capacity and resilience.

Author(s): Richard Pinder, Consultant in Public Health. Isabelle Blackmore, Public Health Policy Officer

NHS Test and Trace case completion has significantly increased due to contribution of local contact tracing

CONTACT TRACING

NHS Test & Trace enables us to monitor the spread of COVID-19 through the testing of suspected cases and tracing of recent close contacts.

- As at 27 October, 1,877 local cases and 4,673 contacts have been identified.
- In the week to 22 October, 397 local cases and 1000 contacts were reported by NHS T&T: **88% of cases** and **59% of contacts** were completed.
- **Contact tracing has been impacted by errors in the national testing programme. We have also raised data quality problems with the national PHE Team which may be impacting our results**

Figure 2: London borough case completion in week to 22 Oct

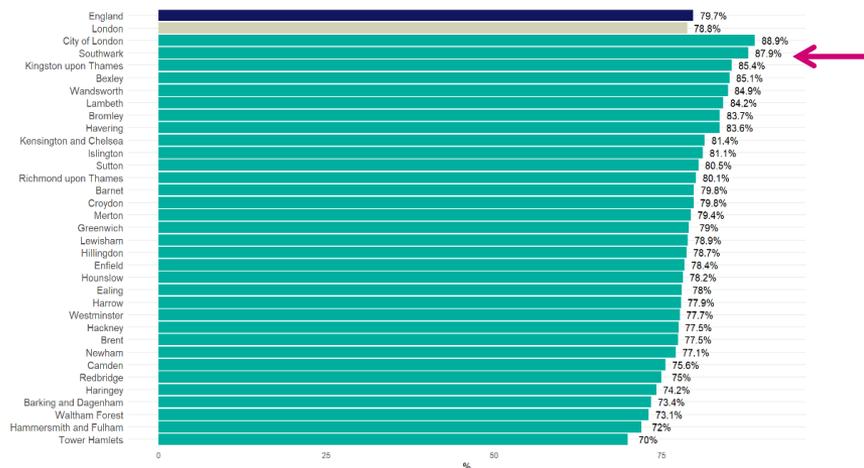
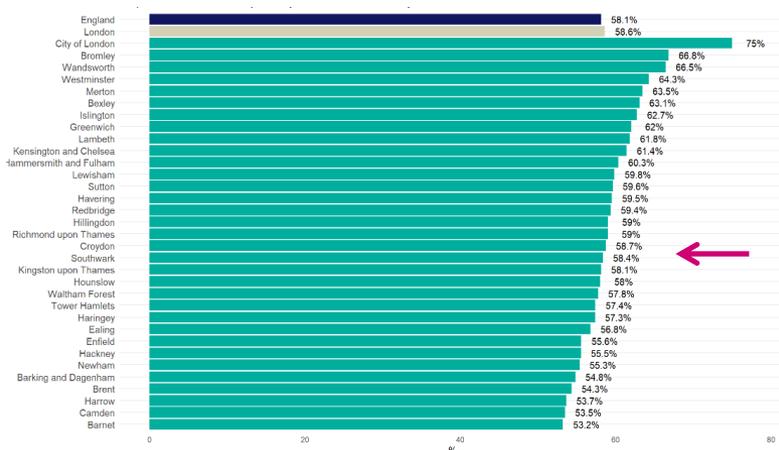


Figure 3: London borough contact completion in week to 22 Oct



References

1. NHS Test & Trace. London Daily Contact Tracing Report. Data to 27 Oct.
2. PHE. London contract tracing weekly outcome reports. Data to 22 Oct.

Summary of key developments and next steps in the Intelligence workstream

INTELLIGENCE, EVIDENCE & EPIDEMIOLOGY

Workstream Activities / Updates

- The daily monitoring report is now well established and is reviewed by the Public Health Acute hub each afternoon. Weekly updates are also provided to senior officers.
- Work is continuing to establish a framework for the monitoring and evaluation of the Outbreak Prevention & Control Plan and local contact tracing.
- A process has been established to review local confirmed cases against key high risk and vulnerable locations within the borough e.g. student halls of residents. This is monitored daily, and cases flagged with our Acute Response Team for follow up when they occur.

Looking ahead

- The team will be reviewing the initial Rapid Impact Assessment in light of the evolving nature of the pandemic. Additional intelligence relevant to Southwark that may be useful to our local response will be incorporated as appropriate.
- Further work is planned to look at the impact of the expansion of testing sites on the number of confirmed cases.
- We continue to work with intelligence colleagues across South East London to identify areas of best practice in the monitoring of COVID-19 and evaluation of local responses.

Author(s): Chris Williamson, Head of Public Health intelligence

Find out more at
southwark.gov.uk/publichealth

Southwark Public Health Division

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