

# HALTON AND WARRINGTON CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) WEEKLY ROUNDUP

23 October 2020

## Global situation

Globally the rate of growth in detection of Covid-19 has increased with around 400,000 cases identified each day, this recent growth is driven by an increase in new cases identified in Europe. The total number of infections now exceeds 41 million. Around 5,000 Covid-19 deaths are reported each day, this has increased over the last two weeks. There have been 1,137,000 deaths associated with COVID-19 reported across the world. With the USA, Europe and South America hardest hit.

## National situation

The UK has reported another 134,587 confirmed cases in the last week and now exceeds 789,000 in total, with deaths rising this week by 1,003 bringing the total figure to date of 44,158.

The number of daily reported deaths is increasing. 432 deaths have been reported in the last two days, these are the highest numbers since early June. This is however much lower than the peak of over 1,000 per day.

Covid-19 positive rates are increasing across the country with the England rate moving from 157 per 100,000 in the week ending 11 October to 176 in the week ending 19 October. North West England has seen a particularly large increase from a rate of 359 to a rate of 381 per 100,000 in the last week.

There is an increase in the number of people being admitted to hospital, with the daily 7-day average increasing from 653 to 923 in the last week.

## Local situation

## Actions being taken locally

NHS Warrington Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), Halton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), Halton Borough Council and Warrington Borough Council are working closely with local NHS providers, Public Health England (PHE), NHS England and other partner organisations, and are well prepared to deal with any outbreak.

In response to the increasing numbers of confirmed cases locally the system Health Protection Board has reconvened the fortnightly meetings, led by the respective Local Authority Directors of Public Health for Halton and Warrington. The membership of the group includes senior representatives from NHS Warrington CCG, NHS Halton CCG, Warrington Borough Council, Halton Borough Council, Public Health and main health providers.

The local incident control structures are stepping back up appropriately in order to oversee and co-ordinate the response.

Our priority is on protecting the most vulnerable living the community and those who are at most risk, whilst at the same time continue to ensure that local services continue to run and provide those essential services to our communities.

### New confirmed cases of coronavirus

	Current date	Previous situation
Halton	<p>There have been 436 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Halton residents in the last 7 days (to 20<sup>th</sup> October). The 7 day rate is 337 per 100,000 population (to 20<sup>th</sup> October)</p> <p>Our weekly rate of positive cases has remained very high in the last week, as we have seen across all local authorities in Cheshire &amp; Merseyside</p> <p>In total there have been 3,013 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Halton residents (to 23rd October)</p> <p>The percentage of people testing positive has remained high during the past week</p> <p>Very sadly, we must report that there have been 4 COVID-19 deaths in the week ending 9<sup>th</sup> October.</p> <p><small><a href="#">[i]</a> Data for the last 4 days may not be complete. Source: <a href="https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/cases">https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/cases</a></small></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 13 October - 441 confirmed cases</li> <li>• 6 October - 475 confirmed cases</li> <li>• 29 September – 285 confirmed cases</li> <li>• 18 September - 134 confirmed cases</li> </ul>

	<a href="#">[iii]</a> Source: <i>Office for National Statistics</i>	
Warrington		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 October - 717 new confirmed cases of coronavirus.</li> <li>• 3 October - 516 confirmed cases</li> <li>• 25 September - 396 confirmed cases</li> <li>• 18 September - 214 confirmed cases</li> </ul>

## Hospitals

	Current situation	Previous situation
Warrington and Halton Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	<p><b>22<sup>nd</sup> October 2020</b></p> <p>There are currently 111 Covid positive inpatients at the Trust, of which 14 are in ICU</p> <p>To date we have tested 29,189 inpatients/community of which 1,809 have tested positive (cumulative)</p> <p>We have discharged 540 patients (cumulative)</p> <p>Sadly 168 patients have died (cumulative)</p> <p><b>Please note that the Trust's Covid data is now updated daily on its website.</b></p>	<p>15 October</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Covid-19 positive inpatients 82 - of which 12 are in ICU</li> <li>• Number of tests (inpatients/community) cumulative - 27,659</li> <li>• Total tests with a positive result (inpatients/community/died/discharged) cumulative - 1,671</li> <li>• Discharges of positive patients (excluding deaths) cumulative - 501</li> <li>• Sadly, the total number of patients that tested positive for COVID-19 and have died since the beginning of the outbreak - 157</li> <li>• Covid-related Staff absence (Symptoms + Medical suspension + Shielding + Track &amp; trace) 5.94% (5.46%)</li> </ul>
St Helens and Knowsley Hospitals NHS Trust	<p>As of 22<sup>nd</sup> October the Trust has 113 positive COVID -19 inpatients. 9 patients are in ICU</p> <p>Sadly, the total number of patients that tested positive for COVID-19 and have died since the beginning of the outbreak is 254</p>	<p>15 October 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 111 positive COVID -19 inpatients, with 5 patients in ICU.</li> <li>• Sadly, the total number of patients that tested positive for COVID-19 and have died since the beginning of the outbreak is 230</li> <li>• The Emergency Department is operating as normal; the average daily attendance in the last 7 days is 283 compared to a usual figure of 350 per day.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• St Helens UTC is operating as normal; average daily attendance in the last 7 days is 135 compared to a usual figure of 120 per day</li> </ul>
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## Halton Borough Council

### Halton – Tier 3, very-high alert level.

The Government imposed the 'very high' Covid alert level on Halton, and the local authority areas of the Liverpool City Region, when it announced its new three-tier system of interventions to tackle the spread of COVID-19. The new restrictions took effect from Wednesday 14 October.

**Reopening of gyms and leisure centres:** Following calls from local leaders, it has been confirmed that gyms, leisure centres, fitness and dance studios can reopen from Saturday 24 October. Soft play areas and centres will be required to close from this date. The changes align Liverpool City Regions with other regions moving into the 'very-high' level.

The Council has updated the frequently asked questions on its website [www.halton.gov.uk](http://www.halton.gov.uk) to reflect the new restrictions.

### Halloween activities:

Residents are being urged to enjoy Hallowe'en safely this year. Instead of 'Trick or Treat, which risks spreading the virus, families are being encouraged instead to take children 'pumpkin spotting' - looking for pumpkins or pictures of pumpkins in the windows of houses – again, which must only be done with members from the same household or social bubble. Under the 'very high' Covid alert level, Halton and other areas of the Liverpool City Region are subject to increased measures to reduce the spread of Covid-19, these include:

- A ban from mixing with anyone outside of your household or social bubble, in homes, gardens or any other indoor setting – this is enforceable by law.
- You may meet others from outside your household or social bubble in some outside areas (like parks), but there must not be more than six in the group
- Travel outside of Halton to other areas, particularly those in a lower alert level (for example Warrington where the level is currently high) is strongly advised against. Likewise, travel into the area is discouraged. Mixing of households indoors in high level areas is also banned.

Families registered with one of Halton's Children's Centres, can pick up a Halloween craft bag to help create pumpkin artwork. Other ideas include a family Hallowe'en movie night with themed tea time treats and drink, or taking part in one of the virtual costume competitions that are being organised in the borough.

## Warrington Borough Council

No update this week

## St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

The Emergency Department is operating as normal; the average daily attendance in the last 7 days is **289** compared to a usual figure of **350** per day.

St Helens UTC is operating as normal; average daily attendance in the last 7 days is **129** compared to a usual figure of **120** per day.

The Trust continues to deliver elective activity, ensuring that our most urgent and cancer patients are prioritised.

### **Staff Flu Campaign**

48% of Trust staff have been vaccinated against flu so far

### **#MakeStHelensProud**

Super League Champions, St Helens Rugby League Football Club, have joined forces with team STHK to appeal to the public to help beat covid.

Head Coach Kristian Woolf, Captain James Roby, and Jonny Lomax worked with the Trust's Communications Team to record a number of powerful films that are to be launched on Granada Reports on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October

In one film, coach Kristian says: "It's been seven months since our fans came to the game, and we want you back. But if covid cases keep rising in St Helens, we'll be waiting even longer. So let's all pull together, work as a team and follow the rules."

In a second film Kristian talks of the character of the local community and how we can fight this by sticking together, he says: "St Helens people are strong and proud. We stick together, look after each other, and we never give up. As covid grips our community, we must all play our part, because we are not fair game and we will not be beaten by this virus."

James Roby, Saints Captain, pleads with the St Helens Community to back their local NHS team, he says: "Just down the road at our local hospitals, another team need your support. Team STHK are fighting for people in the borough

Jonny Lomax, continues: "So get behind them, clean your hands, wear a mask and stay 2 metres apart."

Each film ends with the hashtag #MakeStHelensProud as the rugby stars call for a community effort to fight the covid pandemic.

Following the TV launch the films will be shared simultaneously from 9am on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October and across the coming week on both the Trust's and the Club's social media channels. Saints have over 100k followers on Twitter and over 55k on Facebook so the campaign is expected to deliver high levels of reach and engagement. The Trust will share the figures in next week's bulletin.

Ann Marr OBE, Chief Executive, said: "We would like to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone at Saints. Throughout the pandemic they have been in touch with the Trust offering their help in any way they can to support our staff. They have kindly given their time to help us appeal to our local community and remind everyone of the importance of following the local guidelines. The sooner we have this virus under control, the sooner we can get back in those stands to cheer the team on and show them the same support they have shown us."



## **Warrington and Halton Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust**

The Trust are currently caring for **96** patients with a length of stay of >21 days (week high of 101, week low of 89 – national target is 90)

Emergency Department visits are down on previous week with 1,329 in last 7 days (previous week 1,419)

Urgent Treatment Centre visits are down on previous week with 337 in the last 7 days (343)

### **Routine Covid-19 Staff Testing (asymptomatic testing)**

This week we joined 10 other North West Trusts in a 10-day pilot study where we are Covid-testing all asymptomatic front line staff. This is part of a wider NHS England/Improvement project to strengthen our efforts to prevent and control the spread of infection across our region. We already test symptomatic staff but this development is seen as a key step in supporting our staff and helping to protect our patients.

## **Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust**

No update this week

## **North West Boroughs Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust**

Insert content

**Updates will be provided on a weekly basis each Friday afternoon until further notice**