

HALTON AND WARRINGTON CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) WEEKLY ROUNDUP

06 November 2020

Global situation

Globally the rate of growth in detection of COVID-19 has increased with over 500,000 cases identified each day, this is driven largely by an increase in new cases identified in Europe. The total number of infections now exceeds 48 million. Around 8,000 COVID-19 deaths are reported each day, this has increased over the last two weeks. There have been 1.2 million 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 150,000 confirmed cases in the last week and now exceeds 1 million in total, with deaths rising this week by 2,067 bringing the total figure to date of 47,742.

The number of daily reported deaths is increasing. 492 deaths were reported on the 4 November this is the highest daily number since 12 May.

COVID-19 positive rates are increasing across the country with the England rate moving from 213 per 100,000 in the week ending the 26 October to 223 in the week ending 4 November. North West England has seen a slight decline from a rate of 415 to a rate of 392 per 100,000 in the last week.

There is an increase in the number of people being admitted to hospital, with the daily seven-day average increasing from 1,060 to 1,445 in the last week.

Local situation

The situation locally shows decreasing numbers of cases in Halton with 331 new confirmed cases in Halton in the week to the 16 October down from 389 the week before. In Warrington the number of cases continues to increase, with 928 new cases up from 869 the previous week.

Cases have been confirmed across all age groups with most cases between the ages of 18 and 60. COVID-19 cases in the BAME population are proportionate in relation to overall population.

Cases are distributed proportionately across different areas of deprivation in both Warrington and Halton. Geographically, the cases are concentrated in the centre and west of Warrington and in the areas of greatest population density in Runcorn and Widnes.

The number of confirmed cases within care homes is stable. There are active outbreaks in 14 care homes across Warrington and Halton affecting 214 staff and residents.

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, the main health providers and Health Watch.

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>As at 3rd November 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There have been 345 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Halton residents in the last 7 days (to 3rd November) (i) • The 7 day rate is 267 per 100,000 population (to 3rd November) • Our weekly rate of positive cases has decreased during the past week • In total there have been 3,803 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Halton residents (as of 6th November) • The percentage of people testing positive has remained high during the past week • Sadly, there were a further 3 COVID-19 deaths in the week ending 23rd October (ii) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 27 October - 402 confirmed cases • 20 October - 436 confirmed cases. • 13 October - 441 confirmed cases • 6 October - 475 confirmed cases • 29 September – 285 confirmed cases • 18 September - 134 confirmed cases

Warrington		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25 October - 892 new confirmed cases • 10 October - 717 new confirmed cases of coronavirus. • 3 October - 516 confirmed cases • 25 September - 396 confirmed cases • 18 September - 214 confirmed cases
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Acute Trusts

	Current situation	Previous situation
Warrington and Halton Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	<p>5 November 2020 (noon)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are currently 154 COVID-19 positive inpatients at the Trust, of which 18 are in ICU. At the peak of the first wave this number was 124 (12 April 2020) • To date we have tested 33,266 inpatients/community of which 2,260 have tested positive (cumulative) • We have discharged 646 patients (cumulative) • Sadly 201 patients have died (cumulative) <p>Please note that the Trust's COVID data is now updated daily on its website.</p>	<p>29 October 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 145 inpatients that tested positive for COVID-19 at any time during their admission*. • 17 in ICU • Total tests 31,389 inpatients/community of which 2,058 have tested positive (cumulative) • 584 patients discharged (cumulative) • Sadly 188 patients have died (cumulative) <p><i>*From 29 October 2020 we have been reporting this data to enable exact comparison with position reported during the first wave.</i></p>
St Helens and Knowsley Hospitals NHS Trust	<p>5th November</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are currently 110 positive COVID -19 inpatient, with 9 positive patients on ITU. • Sadly, the total number of patients that tested positive for COVID-19 and have died since the beginning of the outbreak is 300. 	<p>29 October 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 117 positive COVID -19 inpatients. 8 patients in ICU. • Sadly, 278 patients have died

Halton Borough Council

In line with the announcement from Government of new national restrictions from 5 November, there will be making a number of changes to the way Halton Borough Council services will be delivered over the 'lockdown' period.

Council buildings

The following buildings will close to the public as of end of business on Wednesday 4 November:

Leisure centres:

- Kingsway Leisure Centre
- Brookvale Recreation Centre (school activities will continue)

A programme of online fitness classes will continue. More information at www.activehalton.co.uk

Libraries:

- Halton Lea Library (Runcorn Shopping City)
- Widnes Library (Kingsway Learning Centre)
- Ditton Library

A COVID-secure home delivery service will continue to be provided to isolated residents. Other members of the public can continue to access digital services. More information can be found on www.halton.gov.uk/libraries

Community centres:

- Castlefields Community Centre
- Ditton Community Centre
- Grangeway Community Centre
- Murdishaw Community Centre
- Upton Community Centre

Kingsway Learning Centre (adult learning courses will revert to online learning)
Day services at various locations (with the exception of Hough Green as outlined below)

Registration Service: weddings are not allowed within the lockdown period

The following will remain open to the public with COVID-secure measures in place:

- Halton Direct Link (but with reduced opening times of 9am to 1pm)
- Children's centres (open for social care activity and early year's support); Inglefields Children's Centre remains open
- Shopmobility
- Horticultural day service activity at Hough Green
- Women's Centre, Runcorn
- Widnes Market (traders selling essential items)

- Parks, including playgrounds will remain open, however, café's onsite will only be able to provide a take away service.
- Public toilets in town centres
- Halton Borough Council MOT Centre

Waste and collection services

Household waste recycling centres will remain open, operating as now, with current COVID-secure arrangements in place.

There are no changes to the waste collection timetable.

St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

The Emergency Department is operating as normal; average daily attendance in the last 7 days is **271** 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 **114** compared to a usual figure of 120 per day.

Staff Flu Campaign

52% of Trust staff have been vaccinated against flu so far.

NHS 111 First rollout

The Trust is starting work to implement the new national NHS 111 First programme from 17th November 2020.

Warrington and Halton Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (WHH)

Operationally:

- We are currently caring for 111 patients with a length of stay of >21 days (week high of 111, week low of 100 – national target is 90).
- ED visits are down on previous week with 1,253 in the last 7 days (previous week 1,373).
- Urgent Treatment Centre visits are down on previous week with 308 in the last 7 days (327).

Publication of COVID data for the Warrington borough

We have supported Warrington Council in the launch of a [public data dashboard](#) which details the latest coronavirus-related figures in the town.

The dashboard, which will be updated each weekday, will offer a brief summary of the most recent, verified case numbers, as well as relaying the current situation in the hospital.

Chief Executive of Warrington and Halton Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Professor Simon Constable said:

“The pressures we are currently facing in our hospital are very challenging, and with winter coming and an absolute need to carry on with as much other planned activity as possible, we need to do all we can as a community to prevent people being admitted into hospital with coronavirus.

“The dashboard that we are publishing shows the very latest situation in our hospital and I know it will reinforce the seriousness of the situation we are currently in. The data looks stark – but it is within our collective power to prevent the transmission of the virus.

“To help us address our serious capacity issue in hospital and in order for us to bring case numbers down, keep washing your hands, keeping your distance from others and wearing a cloth face covering – following the basics has never been so important.”

Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

Bridgewater services continue to support the wider health and social care system to prevent hospital admissions and also to support the discharge of patients from hospital. Our community teams have been working at capacity to ensure that patients are supported to remain and return to their own homes.

Our community swabbing team and our infection prevention and control team have undertaken a large swabbing exercise this week. Our flu vaccination campaign is also well underway and all staff are being encouraged to protect themselves.

All of our services are operational albeit not at pre-COVID levels and from some amended locations. A number of services have implemented video consultations and we are currently in the process of evaluating our patient feedback to ensure that patients are happy to receive their consultations in this way.

Our specialist children’s services in Warrington received positive feedback from the Department for Education around the care provided to children during the COVID pandemic and to support children with complex needs when they returned to school. Our 0-19’s teams in both Halton and Warrington are supporting with the management of outbreaks in schools in both Boroughs and thanks has been received from our commissioners.

Our midwifery team in Halton received some excellent feedback from a patients survey that they undertook about the care that their patients received during the pandemic and whether they felt supported.

North West Boroughs Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

Face masks

In line with Government guidance and to protect staff and patients, unless there are exemptions, all staff and visitors to North West Boroughs Healthcare sites are now asked to wear face masks.

If you are attending one of the Trust's buildings for an appointment or any other reason, including as an external supplier or a healthcare worker from another organisation, you will need to wear a surgical face mask at all times. These are available at all main receptions. Bins are available to dispose of used face masks on your way out. Guidance about this is available on the Trust's website at: www.nwbh.nhs.uk/face-masks

Service changes

Services are continuing to adapt how they deliver services so that they can continue to support patients. This includes the use of virtual and telephone appointments where this can be done safely. Information about how the Trust's services are currently operating is regularly being updated on their website at: www.nwbh.nhs.uk/changes-to-our-services

Evaluation of virtual patient consultations

North West Boroughs Healthcare is currently evaluating the use of the online consultation platforms they have been using over the last six months to carry out patient appointments virtually. The Trust is seeking the views of service users, carers and staff to understand what is working well and what could be improved. Their aim is to gather feedback to help improve the digital services offered and provide better care for patients and service users in the future.

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