

Scrutiny Health & Social Care Sub- Committee Supplementary Agenda



5. Update on the Croydon Response to Covid-19 (Pages 3 - 12)

The Sub-Committee will be provided with an update on the Croydon response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

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HEALTH SCRUTINY MEETING:

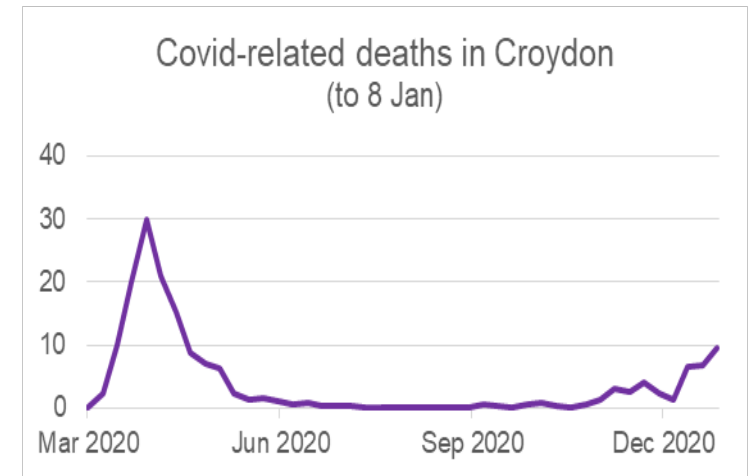
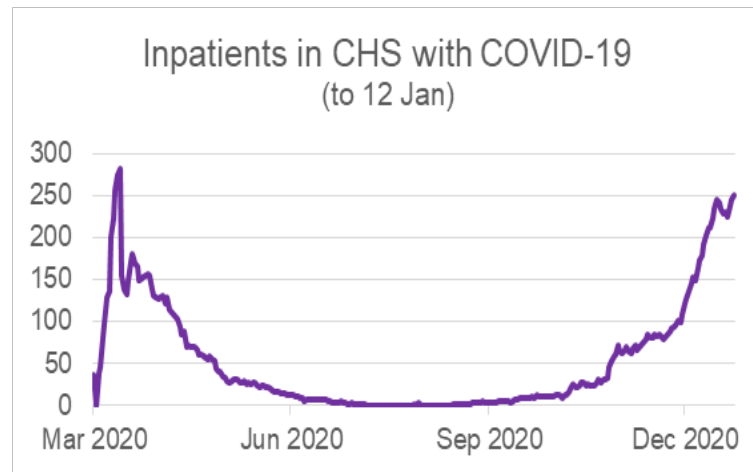
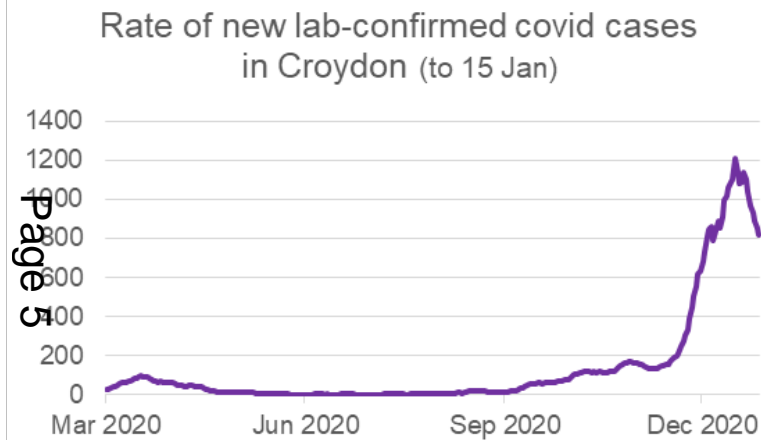
PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

COVID-19 IN CROYDON

- In 2020, almost 17,000 people living in Croydon tested positive for coronavirus, this is approximately 1 in every 23 people. This figure is likely to be an underestimate. A recent study by Edge Health estimated that almost 1 in every 3 people in Croydon may have had the virus this past year.
- In 2020, Croydon University Hospital admitted more than 1,500 COVID-19 patients and, at its peak, more than half of all the hospital's beds were being used by patients who had tested positive for COVID-19.
- Latest figures show that more than 600 COVID-related deaths* happened in Croydon in 2020. These accounted for 20% of all deaths in 2020 (so approximately 1 in every 5 deaths in the borough was COVID-related).
- In 2021, the number of COVID-19 cases, deaths and hospital admissions has increased in Croydon. We are starting to see a decrease in cases; but cases remain high.
- National studies have shown that some population groups are more likely to be infected, hospitalised and/or die with COVID-19 than others.
- A rapid evidence review (commissioned by GLA) identified substantial inequalities across protected characteristics and socioeconomic position in relation to risk of COVID-19 infection, complications and mortality, and in terms of the negative economic, social and psychological consequences of Government policies to mitigate the health impacts of the pandemic.

* a COVID-related death is a registered death with any mention of COVID-19 on the death certificate

COVID-19 IN CROYDON: CASES, ADMISSIONS TO HOSPITAL AND DEATHS



CROYDON'S OUTBREAK CONTROL PLAN

- Aims to save lives and reduce health inequalities by reducing the spread of infection in people living and working in Croydon from COVID-19.
- Outlines 5 steps to prevent, control and manage COVID-19 incidents and outbreaks: monitoring, engagement, testing, targeted restrictions and local lockdowns.
- Contains 7 themes: care homes and schools; high risk places; locations and communities; local testing capacity; contact tracing in complex settings; data integration; vulnerable people; and local boards.

CARE HOMES

- Infection, Prevention and Control advice, guidance and support as needed via one on one and group meetings with homes.
- Joint meetings with commissioning, safeguarding, CCG and NHS colleagues to discuss next steps for outbreak management and supporting homes flagged as high risk.
- Ongoing work with partners to address vaccine hesitancy.

SCHOOLS

- Strategic direction and guidance to support the management, control and response to situations and outbreaks in schools.
- Engagement and communication activities, including resources (flowcharts for schools and parents, poster for parents and carers), focus groups with schools and sessions with schools' staff across all localities.

VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

- Proposal to encourage community engagement in the Croydon Outbreak Control Plan by working with the VCS.
- Providing infection control guidance and advice to hostels and temporary and emergency accommodation providers.
- Ongoing discussions with colleagues in the Homeless team and UCL Find and Treat team on how to support providers with outbreak control management.

COVID19 VACCINATION PROGRAMME

- Rolled out in December, it is offered at CHS and through groups of GP practices in PCNs across Croydon. Large vaccination sites expected to go live in February.
- Social Care and Commissioning Teams, with strategic public health support, are working in collaboration with CCG to coordinate the identification of priority groups and booking system.
- The CCG, Croydon BME Forum and the Asian Resource Centre, with public health support, are engaging with local communities to address vaccine hesitancy and to understand any concerns they may have.

LONG-TERM IMPLICATIONS OF COVID-19

- Deterioration of key social health determinants and widening inequalities (smoking, alcohol, obesity, social isolation, violence and abuse and mental health)
- Disproportional effects on high-risk groups (mortality, loss of income, increased food poverty)
- Children and young people: harms of containment measures, especially disadvantaged children
- Effects on screening and immunisation, access to healthcare services (reduced GP services, perceived reduction and secondary care cancellations of on non-urgent care)

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