

# COVID-19 update to the Hackney Scrutiny Commission

23 February 2021

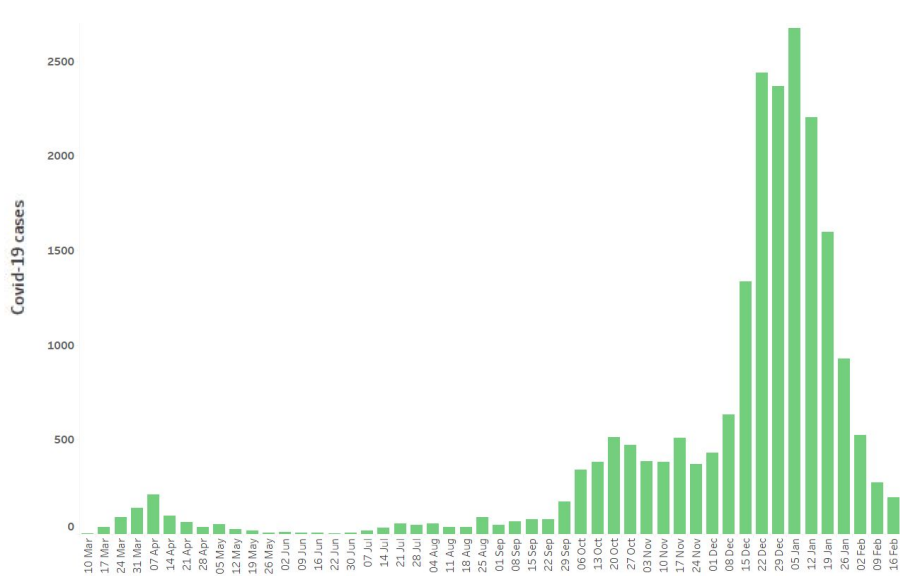
Dr Sandra Husbands  
Director of Public Health  
City and Hackney Public Health

## Key messages

- Hackney's COVID-19 incidence, testing, and positivity rates have been declining since early January.
- While rates are decreasing overall, they remain high among certain age groups. Populations aged 18 to 24 and 60 to 79 are currently recording the highest incidence rates.
- There also continues to be variation in incidence rates by ward. However, this variation does not follow any obvious geographical pattern.
- The rate of decline has not been consistent between ethnicities. Other ethnicities recorded the greatest decrease in incidence rates, and Bangladeshi populations recorded the smallest.
- In line with decreases in COVID-19 cases, COVID-19 bed occupancy and staff absences have been decreasing since mid-January.

# The number of new COVID-19 cases have been declining since early January and are currently lower than the London average

New COVID-19 cases in Hackney by week, up to 16 February

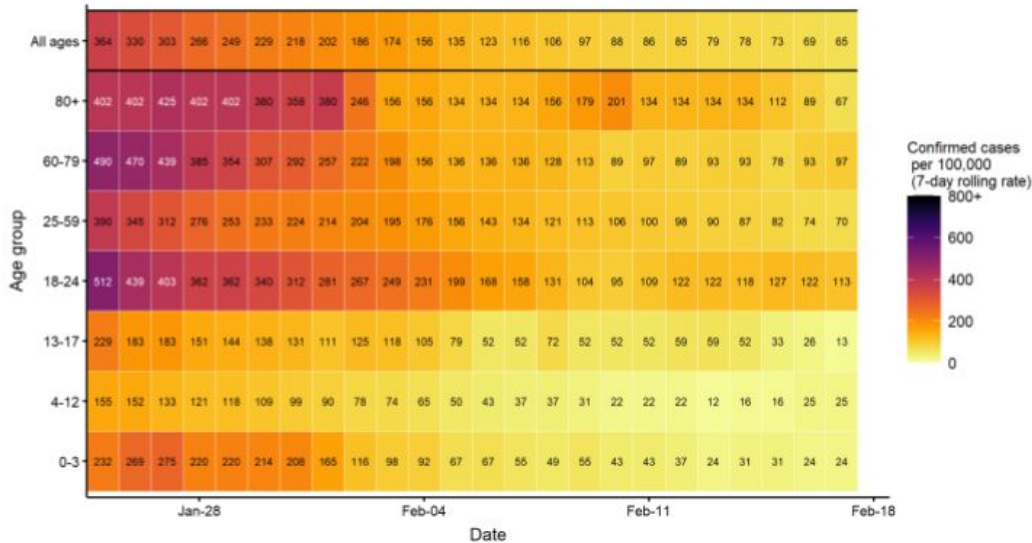


- The number of new COVID-19 cases reached a peak in the week ending 5 January and has since been significantly declining week on week.
- In the week ending 5 January, 952 cases were recorded per 100,000 population. As of 16 February, Hackney's incidence rate is now below 70 cases per 100,000 population. This is lower than the London average.
- The number of tests returning positive results has also decreased significantly in the last few weeks. Currently, 2.5% tests are returning positive results, down from 21.0% in the last week of December.
- Testing rates have decreased in line with decreases in cases - the current testing rate is roughly 3,600 tests per 100,000 population.

Data source: Public Health England. Most recent days are excluded as they are subject to reporting delay.

# The highest incidence rates are currently being recorded among 18 to 24 year olds, followed by 60 to 79 year olds.

COVID-19 incidence rate by age group in Hackney (19 January to 17 February)

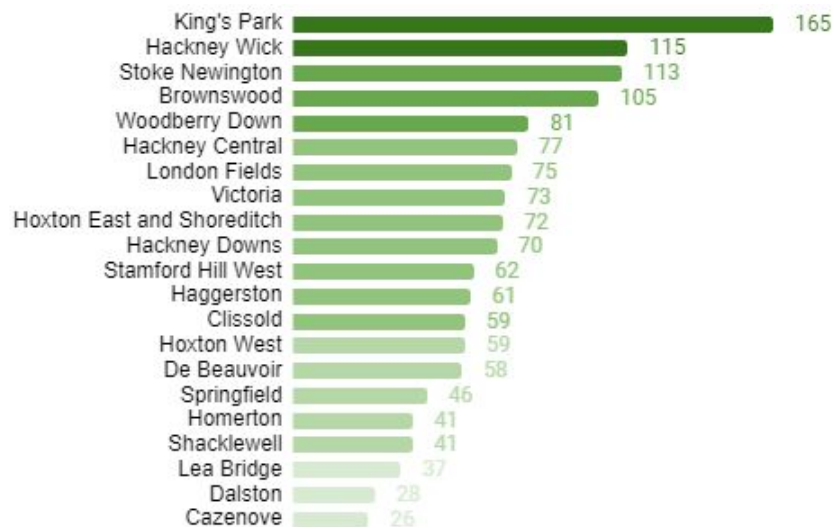


- The most recent cases continue to be diagnosed among younger working ages, for both genders.
- Incidence rates have decreased in all age groups since mid-January. Comparing incidence rates from 19 to 25 January with 11 to 17 February:
  - 18 to 24 year olds: 512 vs 113 cases per 100,000 (-78%)
  - 25 to 29 year olds: 390 vs 70 (-82%)
  - 60 to 79 y/o: 490 vs 97 (-80%)
  - 80+ y/o: 402 vs 67 (-83%)
- 60 to 79 year olds are currently recording the second highest incidence rates. This is worrying as these are some of our most vulnerable residents.

Data source: Public Health England. Most recent days are excluded as they are subject to reporting delay.

# Incidence rates continue to vary by ward, but this does not follow any obvious geographical pattern

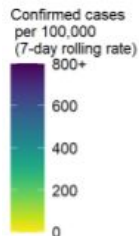
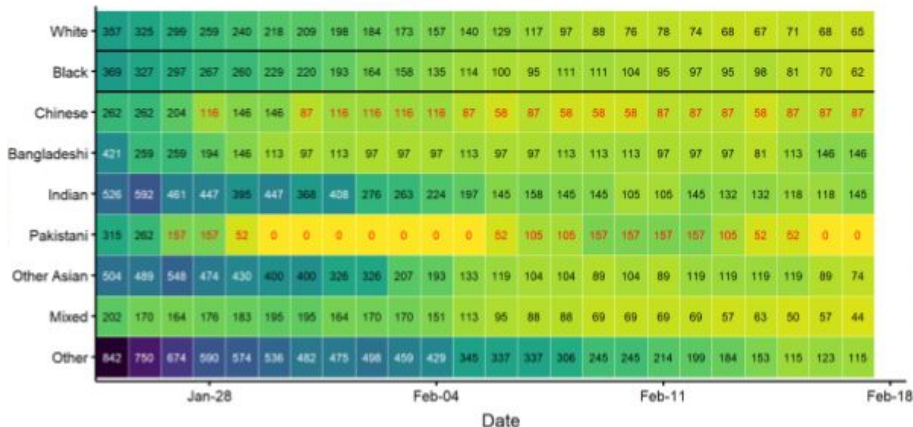
Weekly incidence rates per 100,000 population, per week (10 to 16 February)



- While incidence rates have declined across all wards since early January, there continues to be variation by ward. However, this variation does not follow any obvious geographical pattern.
- King's Park, Stoke Newington, and Brownswood have recorded some of the highest incidence rates in the latest weeks.
- In the week ending 16 February, Kings Park recorded the highest incidence rate at 165 cases per 100,000 population. Kings park also recorded a 31% increase in COVID-19 cases in the latest week.
- In the latest week , four wards recorded incidence rates above 100 cases per 100,000 population, while six wards recorded rates of under 50 cases per 100,000 population.

# Incidence rates have fallen at different rates by ethnic group since mid-January

COVID-19 incidence rate by ethnic group in Hackney (19 January to 17 February)

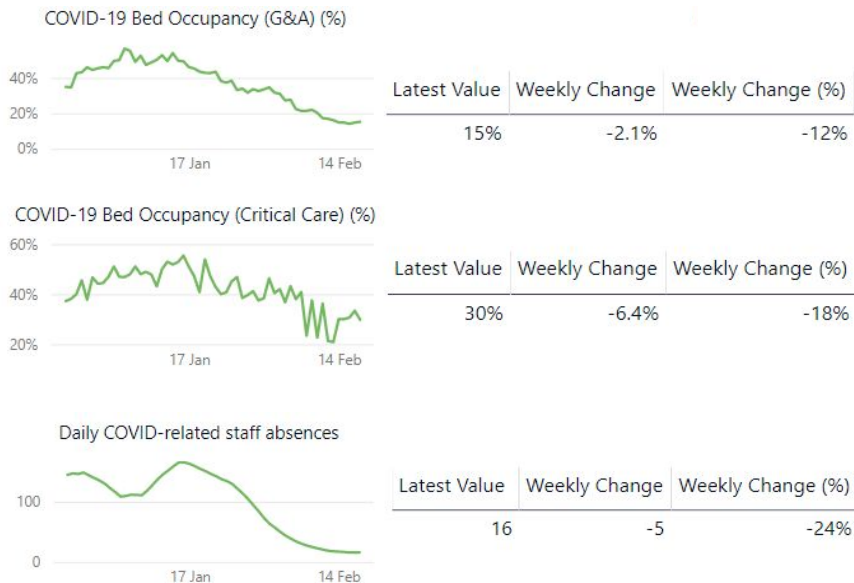


Data source: Public Health England. Most recent days are excluded as they are subject to reporting delay. Excluding 7.4% ethnicity data classified as NA or Unknown. Where text is red, rates should be interpreted with caution as underlying case numbers are <5.

- Incidence rates have fallen among all ethnicities since mid-January. However, the rate of decline has not been consistent between ethnicities.
- Between the week ending 25 January and the week ending 17 February, Other ethnicities recorded the greatest decrease in incidence rates, at -86%, and Bangladeshi populations recorded the smallest decrease at -65%.
- Bangladeshi populations also recorded the highest incidence rates in the latest week of available data (ending 17 February), at 146 cases per 100,000 population, closely followed by Indian populations at 145 cases per 100,000.
- When excluding Pakistani who have a small underlying population, the lowest rates were recorded among mixed ethnicities in the latest week, at 44 cases per 100,000 population.

# COVID-19 bed occupancy and staff absences have been decreasing since mid-January in line with decreases in COVID-19 cases

Homerton Hospital general and critical COVID-19 bed occupancy and COVID-related staff absences, up to 14 February



- Since the beginning of January, there have been 134 deaths due to or involving COVID-19 among residents of Hackney. This followed an increase in COVID-19 bed occupancy and staff absences.
- However, COVID-19 bed occupancy and staff absences have been decreasing since mid-January.
- In the week up to 14 February, 30% of critical care beds were occupied by COVID-19 patients. This is 18% lower than the previous week.
- Overall bed occupancy remains relatively high: 65% of G&A beds are occupied and 85% of critical care beds are occupied.