

Tower Hamlets COVID-19 update

26th May, 2021



Local infection & vaccination picture



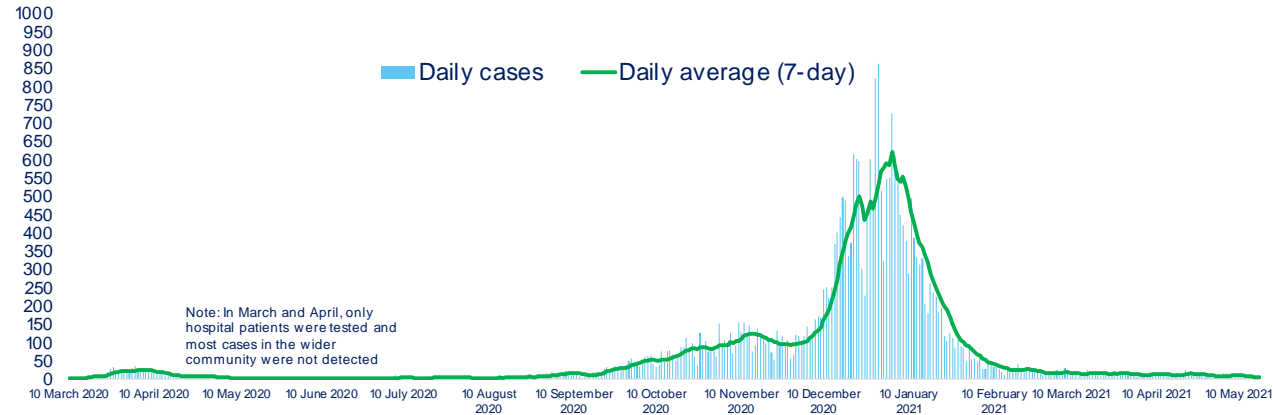
TOWER HAMLETS WEEKLY COVID-19 STATISTICS



Rendered on 25-05-2021. Data shown is for the period 13-05-2021 to 19-05-2021

Number of cases:

There have been a total of 29,084 cases since 10th March 2020.



What does this mean?

Case numbers have declined over the last few weeks and we will continue to monitor the impact surge testing has on these.

Our incidence rates are around 10 cases per 100,000. Incidence rates are lower in the over 60 year age groups, suggesting vaccination is having an impact.

Positivity rates (the proportion of people who take a test who are positive) has fallen below 1% across the borough, which suggests there is a decrease in transmission of Covid-19.

We are now at Step 3 on the road out of lockdown and we will continue to monitor the data mapping our progress along this route.

This week surge testing continues in the borough in response to the identification of variants of concern.

Delivery of first, and increasingly second doses, of vaccine is a priority particularly among populations with lower uptake or limited access to sites.

Anyone with or without symptoms can get tested and we have increased our testing capacity in the borough making it easier for all our residents to get tested.

We urge you to stick to public health guidance over the next coming weeks, and keep yourselves, your loved ones and Tower Hamlets safe.

Somen Banerjee
Director of Public Health

- The weekly incidence rate has decreased & is now at 10.8 cases per 100,000 - lower than London and England, and remains rated as GREEN.
- There were 35 Covid-19 cases in Tower Hamlets in the past 7 days compared to 68 the week before.
- 113,363 residents have their first dose & 46,759 residents have now had both doses
- There have been no new COVID-19 deaths in Tower Hamlets in the week to 7th May

Confirmed cases (weekly number of people tested positive)

This week:

35

vs an average of 55 across London

▼ from last week:

68

All ages incidence rate (weekly rate per 100,000)

This week:

10.8

vs 20.4 in London

▼ from last week:

20.9

Over 59s incidence rate (weekly rate per 100,000)

This week:

6.6

vs 99 in London

▼ from last week:

13.2

Individuals tested (daily rate per 100,000)

This week:

375.5

vs 370.4 in London

▲ from last week:

364.7

Positivity rate (weekly percentage)

This week:

0.5%

vs 0.7% in London

▼ from last week:

0.7%

Population aged 16+ vaccinated (first dose)

This week:

44%

▲ from last week:

39%

Population aged 65+ vaccinated (first dose)

This week:

84%

▲ from last week:

84%



Roadmap



All schools colleges & childcare re-open – incl. before- & after-school clubs	Rule of six or two households meeting outdoors allowed inc private gardens
Meeting one person from another household in outdoor public spaces allowed	Outdoor sports (tennis/football/ basketball courts o/d pools re-open)
Care home residents allowed one visitor	Minimise travel, no holidays
Funerals (30), wakes & weddings (6)	Stay at home order ends

(from 8 March) (from 29 March)

- All retail re-opens
- Outdoor hospitality re-opens
- Outdoor settings (alcohol take-ways, beer gardens, zoos, theme parks) re-open
- Indoor leisure (gyms, pools) re-opens
- Libraries and Community centres re-open
- Self-contained holiday accommodation re-opens
- Continue to WFH if you can

- 30 person limit outdoors
- Two households can mix indoors
- Indoor entertainment and hospitality re-opens
- Indoor events - up to 10,000 or 50% capacity
- Outdoor seated events - up to 10,000 or 25%
- Up to 30 people can attend most significant life events
- International travel - STR
- Hotels etc. can open
- Continue to WFH if you can

Step Three - from 17 May

- Remove all legal limits on social contact
- Remaining sectors re-open – e.g. nightclubs
- No limits on weddings, funerals
- Larger events allowed

Step One - from 8 March


Step Two - from 12 April

Step Three - from 17 May





Step Four - from 21 June



Four Tests to progress



THE FOUR TESTS

✓ 1) Vaccination rates >80% for cohorts 1 to 5 & continue to increase in other cohorts	 <p>TEST 1 The vaccine deployment programme continues successfully.</p>	 <p>TEST 2 Evidence shows vaccines are sufficiently effective in reducing hospitalisations and deaths in those vaccinated.</p>	✓ 2) Hospital admissions and trends for deaths from COVID are reducing
✓ 3) Hospitals admissions and bed occupancy (intensive care) levels continue to decline	 <p>TEST 3 Infection rates do not risk a surge in hospitalisations which would put unsustainable pressure on the NHS.</p>	 <p>TEST 4 Our assessment of the risks is not fundamentally changed by new Variants of Concern.</p>	4) Enhanced surveillance and surge testing continues for the identification of Variants of Concern

COVID-19 ROADMAP 2021

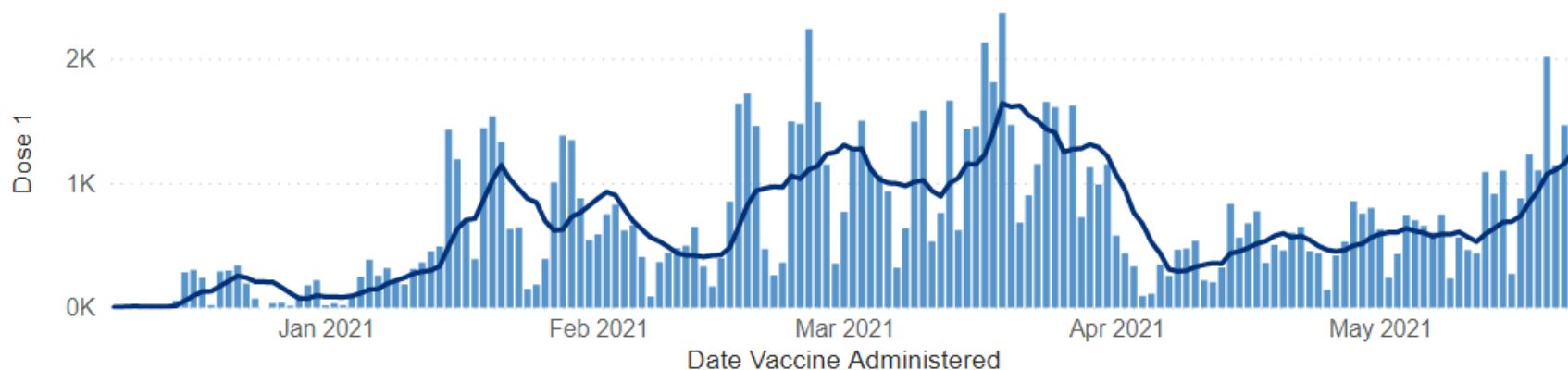


Number of residents vaccinated



Dose 1 by Date Administered

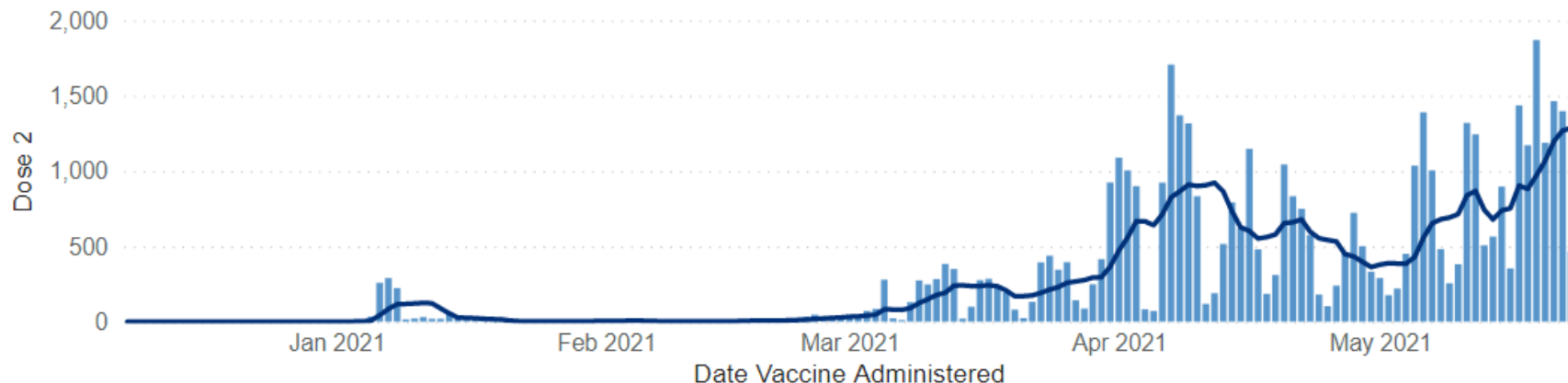
● Dose 1 ● 7 Day Rolling Average Dose 1



113,363
Residents have had first dose
(up to 23rd May. Source: PHE)

Dose 2 by Date Administered

● Dose 2 ● 7 Day Rolling Average Dose 2



46,759
Residents have had second dose
(up to 23rd May. Source: PHE)

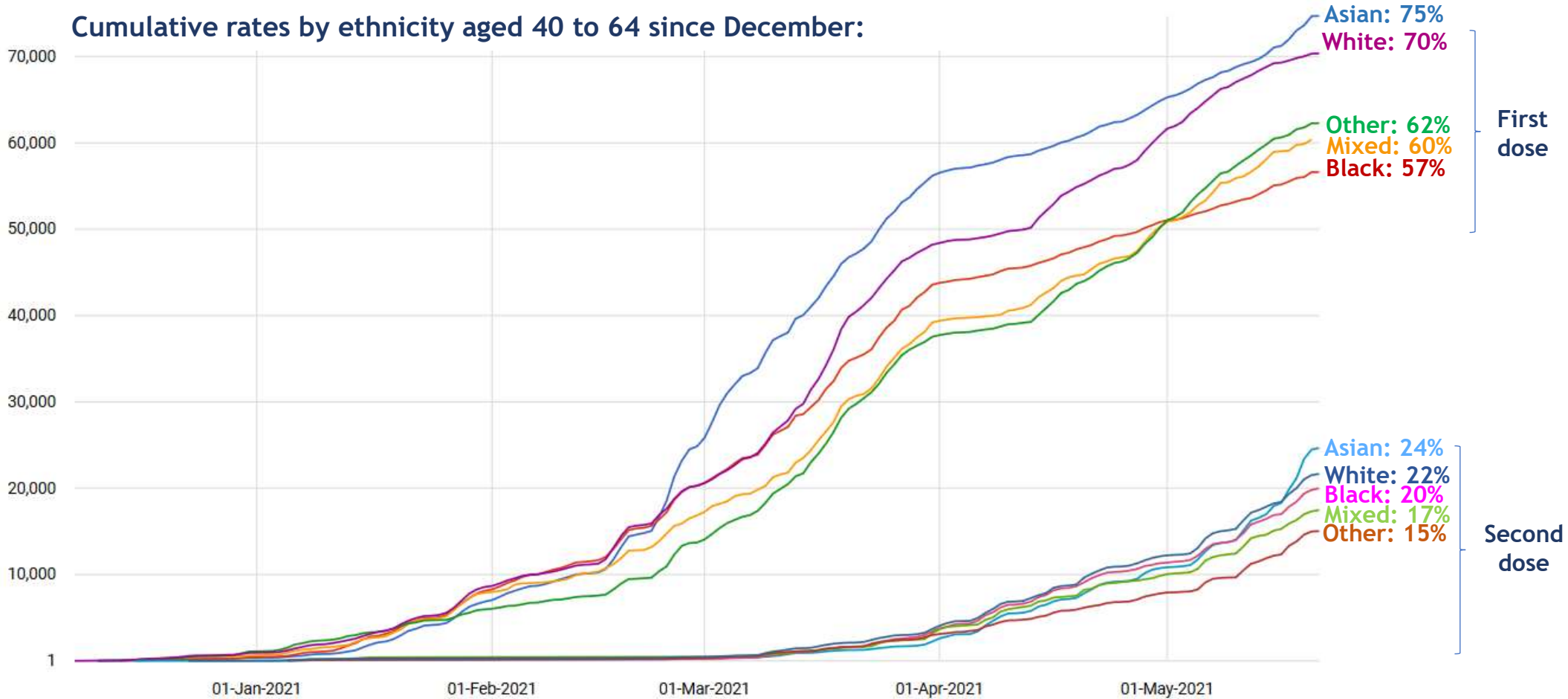
Source: PHE Situational Explorer Tool . Data is up to 23rd May.. Numerators and denominators are based on NIMS data.



Cumulative vaccination rates by ethnicity



Cumulative rates by ethnicity aged 40 to 64 since December:



This shows in the younger age groups there is a disparity between White/Asian groups and other ethnic groups (Black, Mixed, Other)

Asian residents show higher vaccination rates than White residents

Source: Discovery Dashboard. Data extracted on 24th May..
 Figures may be subject to data lags .Population denominators are based on GP registered population.

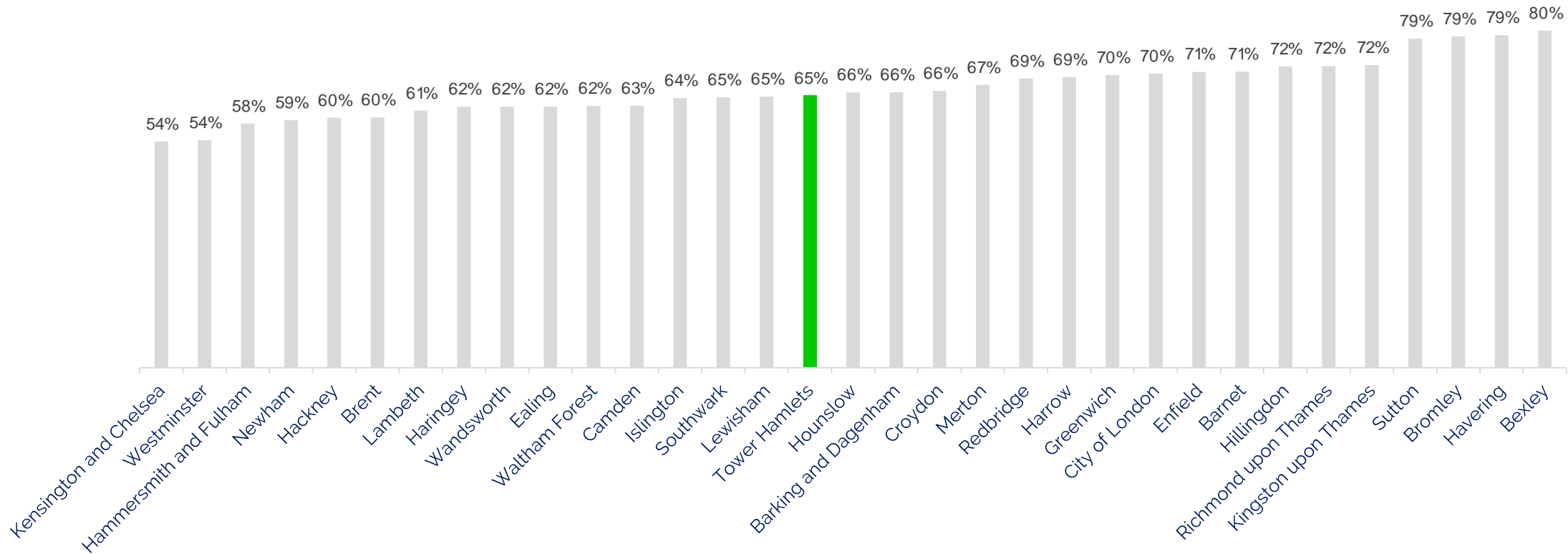


Vaccination rates compared to the rest of London



Vaccination rates in London: % aged 40 to 64 who have had their first dose

Source: NHS England. Based on NIMS data (8th December 2020 to 16th May 2021)



Source: NHS England. Available at; <https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/covid-19-vaccinations/>



Variants of Concern



Variants of Concern (VOC)

- VOC (vs VUI = Variant Under Investigation)
 - Transmissibility
 - Severity
 - Impact on Vaccine effectiveness
- Main VOCs (numbers at 19th May added)
 - B 1.1.7 (Kent) 249,637
 - Increased transmissibility, severity
 - No vaccine impact
 - B 1.1351 (South Africa) 904 cases
 - Maybe impact on vaccine effectiveness
 - No evidence increased transmissibility, severity
 - P.1 (Brazil) 143 cases
 - Maybe more transmissible
 - Maybe impact on vaccine effectiveness
 - B1.617.2.2 (Indian) 3424 cases
 - Maybe more transmissible
 - No evidence of impact on vaccine effectiveness



National Approach



- Purpose
 - Monitor and suppress spread
 - Understand new variants
- Precautionary approach (in context of what happened with Kent VOC)
 - Enhanced surveillance by sequencing variants
 - Enhance contact tracing
 - Surge testing
- Surge testing
 - Increasing testing in a defined area
 - Whether or not people have symptoms
 - Whether or not people are vaccinated
 - Includes people previously testing positive (but not within 90 days)
- Current locations using surge testing
 - Brent, Ealing, Hackney, Harrow, Hillingdon, Redbridge, K&C, Tower Hamlets
 - Blackburn, Bolton, Sefton, Warwickshire, Worcestershire
- Approach
 - Additional MTUs, increased access to LTS, Collection Points, Door to Door



Tower Hamlets



- Levels of COVID-19 are now the lowest since summer
- However, an increasing proportion of positive cases are variants of concern (since end April)
- Since 2nd May we have increased PCR testing to understand spread
- Initially, covered Bethnal Green and Stepney Green area - 6400 tests were completed between 2nd to 16th May
- From the 17th May to 31st May - due to dispersal of cases, we're continuing to ask residents across the borough to get tested whether or not they have symptoms
- Currently we know of 42 cases of the Covid-19 Variants of Concern (VOC) which have been transmitted within the community
- These VOCs are mainly ex South Africa but starting to see a small number of the VOC ex India, we're also now starting to see positive cases from the surge testing too
- Although numbers of the VOC ex India (B.1.617.2) are low, this is now considered to be more transmissible - although responsive to vaccination (hence surge vaccination approach in Bolton and NW)
- The best way to contain variants is to keep levels low – through vaccination, & cautious easing out of lockdown



Thank you!

