

Covid-19 update for Kent Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee – September 2021

Content of this report is accurate for the deadline of paper submissions. Verbal updates will be provided at the committee meeting.

The report is provided by the Kent and Medway Clinical Commissioning Group (KMCCG) on behalf of the Integrated Care System. It is an overview to the NHS response to the pandemic and includes work being delivered by a wide range of NHS partners.

Vaccination programme

The Covid-19 vaccination programme across Kent and Medway continues to progressed well. Since the last HOSC update, key changes to the programme have been roll out of the vaccination offer to 16 – 17 year olds and the national approval to offer the vaccine to 12-15 year olds, further details below.

VACCINATION PROGRESS

Figures on vaccine progress are published nationally each Thursday. As of 2 September, the position in Kent and Medway was:

- 2,472,010 vaccines in total
- 1,308,664 first doses
- 1,163,346 second doses completed

Percentage uptake across the priority groups:

Cohorts	First dose uptake	Second dose completion	Whole pop. fully vaccinated
1 (Care home residents and carers)	98%	88%	86%
2 (80+ years and health and care frontline staff)	96%	97%	93%
3 (75-79 year olds)	97%	98%	95%
4 (70-74 year olds and extremely vulnerable)	95%	98%	94%
Total 1 – 4	96%	97%	93%
5 (65-69 year olds)	94%	99%	93%
6 (clinically vulnerable aged 16-64)	88%	95%	83%
7 (60-74 year olds)	92%	98%	90%
8 (55-59 year olds)	91%	98%	89%
9 (50-54 year olds)	89%	97%	86%
Total 1 – 9	92%	97%	90%
10 (40-49 year olds)	83%	94%	78%
11 (30-39 year olds)	71%	83%	59%
12 (18-29 year olds)	65%	62%	41%
Total 10 – 12	72%	80%	58%
13 (16-17 year olds)	45%	16%	7%
All cohorts	83%	90%	74%

16 – 17 YEAR OLDS

As highlighted above, 16-17 year olds are now able to get the Covid-19 vaccine. For 16-17 year olds with no underlying risk factors only one dose of the Pfizer vaccine will be given. For this group people are being contacted by GP led services or can use walk-in clinics. Young people aged 16-17 can provide self-consent for all immunisations and this includes the Covid-19 vaccination.

Young people within three months of their 18th birthday will be offered two doses and can use the national booking service as well as walk-in clinics.

12 – 15 YEAR OLDS

On 3 September the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) published a statement saying they are not recommending vaccination of all 12-15 year olds. The Government has asked the national Chief Medical Officers to consider the wider impact on schools and society. We will update the committee on the position at the meeting.

A small cohort of 12-15 year olds are being advised to have the vaccine. This is specifically if the young person has underlying health conditions that put them at increased risk from Covid-19 or if they live with someone who is immunosuppressed. On 3 September, the JCVI updated their guidance on the conditions considered to put young people at increased risk from Covid-19, expanding it to also include:

- haematological malignancy
- sickle cell disease
- type 1 diabetes
- congenital heart disease

Children with poorly controlled asthma and less common conditions, often due to congenital or metabolic defects where respiratory infections can result in severe illness, should also be offered COVID-19 vaccination. The full JCVI guidance is online [here](#). Vaccination of 12-15 year olds requires consent by their parent/legal guardian.

THIRD DOSE FOR IMMUNOSUPPRESSED

On 1 September the JCVI issued guidance that a third dose should be offered to people who were severely immunosuppressed at the time of their first or second dose, including those with leukaemia, advanced HIV and recent organ transplants. These people may not mount a full response to vaccination and so may be less protected than the wider population. This offer is separate to any potential booster programme.

BOOSTER PROGRAMME

At the time of finalising this report the NHS was awaiting formal guidance from the JCVI and then a subsequent decision by the Government on whether there will be a booster programme to provide third doses. We will update the committee verbally at the meeting.

VACCINATION CENTRES

Across Kent and Medway we continue to have over 20 vaccination sites available through the national bookings service and continue to run a range of walk-in clinics (these change from week to week but 10-15 different options including a mobile unit are routinely available). All local options for vaccination sites are published on our vaccination pages of the KMCCG website and through national NHS websites for locating nearest clinics.

www.kentandmedwayccg.nhs.uk/covid19vaccine

[National Covid-19 vaccine walk-in clinic finder](#)

Covid-19 cases and deaths

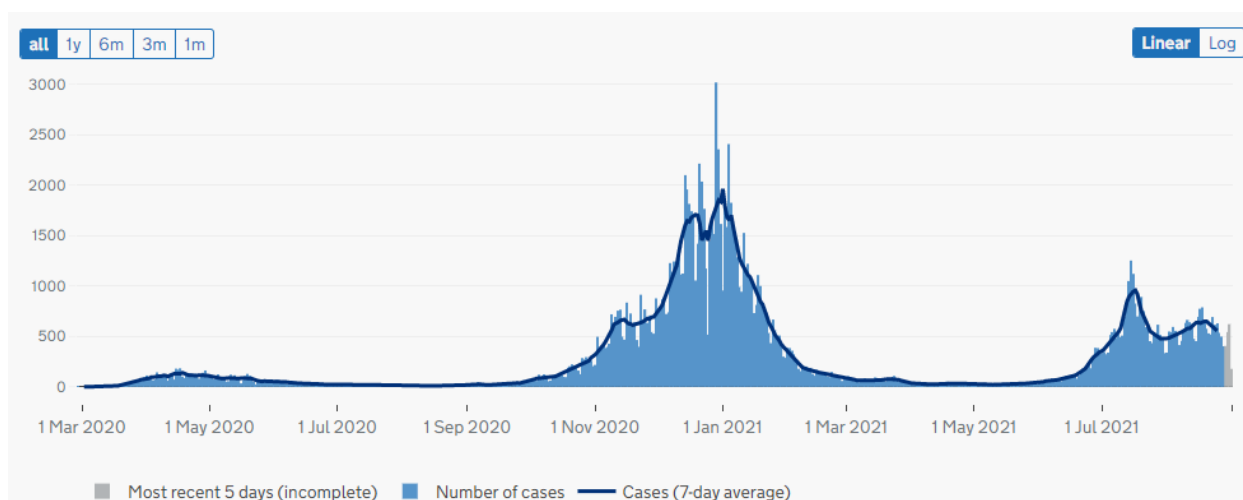
Community infection rates across Kent rose in mid-July to a peak of 956.7 per 100,000 (7 day average) then dropped to a rolling average of 555 at the end of August.

The number of people in hospital beds with confirmed Covid-19 is currently around 125 (of which 14 are in intensive care beds). This is a rise from 25 in hospital and 2 in intensive care when we updated HOSC in July. Hospitals are coping well with this increase. More detail on wider hospital pressures is provided later in the report.

Deaths from Covid-19 remain low, although there are unfortunately still a number of deaths on a weekly basis. As of 3 September in Kent there have been:

- 4,055 deaths within 28 days of a positive test
- 4,640 deaths with Covid-19 recorded on the death certificate

The graph below shows the **daily confirmed cases** in Kent over the duration of the pandemic:



Source: 3 Sept 2021 <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/details/cases?areaType=utla&areaName=Kent>

Hospital elective care treatments

The NHS across Kent and Medway continues to work hard to reschedule routine treatments and good progress is being made. Rescheduling treatment will prioritise those with the highest clinical need and those who have been waiting longest. The overall total of people on waiting lists is increasing as new referrals are made, but the percentage seen within 18 weeks is increasing; the average waiting time is falling; and the number of people waiting over a year is falling.

Latest figures were published on 12 August, providing data for June 2021, and show the number of people waiting over 52 weeks reduced by a further 800 in June. August data is due to be published shortly.

	April 2021	May 2021	June 2021
Total incomplete pathways	143,974	150,752	153,366
Total within 18 weeks	92,867	103,028	108,888
% within 18 weeks	64.5%	68.3%	71.0%
Average waiting time in weeks	10.7	10.5	9.9
Total 52 plus weeks	7,963	6,815	6,010

Source: National Consultant-led Referral to Treatment Waiting Times Data 2021-22, 12 Aug 2021
<https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/rtt-waiting-times/rtt-data-2021-22/>

General Practice pressure

The CCG continues to work with general practice, the Local Medical Committee and wider NHS partners to address pressures facing general practice and the challenges patients are having contacting practices and arranging appointments. A separate report with further information on actions to support GP services will be brought to the November HOSC meeting.

Conclusion

All parts of the NHS continue to work extremely hard to meet patients' needs which have built up through the period of lockdown restrictions. We maintain our attention on supporting people needing hospital care for Covid-19; delivering the vaccination programme; and addressing backlogs and increased demand now that lockdown restrictions have been largely lifted.

As an appropriate precaution we continue to recommend the wearing of face coverings and maintaining social distancing for staff, patients and visitors to all healthcare settings.

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