



# Getting ready for the party season

COVID-19 advice webinar for businesses in the City of London and Hackney

Monday 15 November 2021

# Welcome, introduction and housekeeping

## Housekeeping

- Please submit questions via the chat, or through Menti.com (anonymous) (code: 6840 3413)
- Mute microphones if not speaking

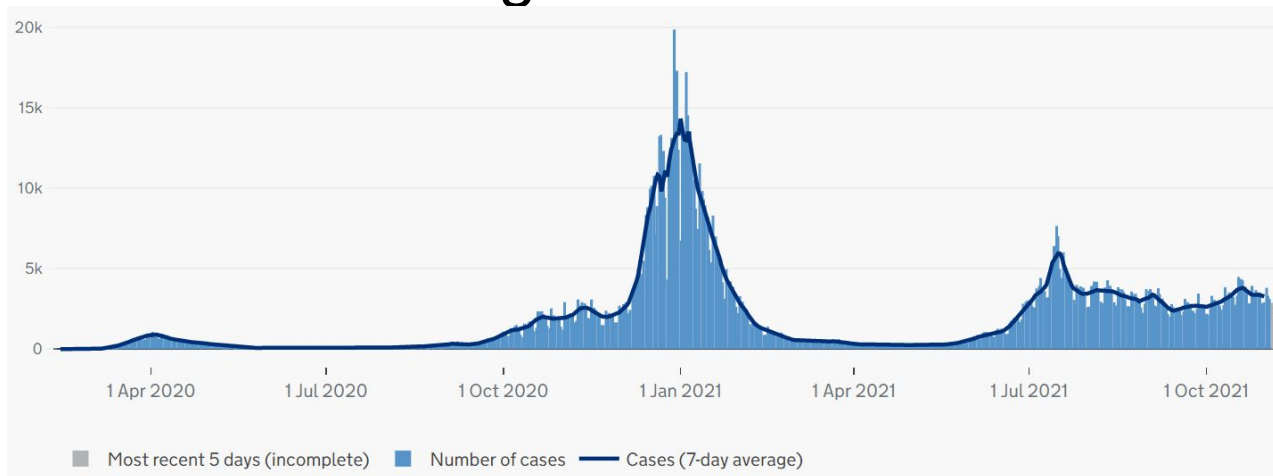
## Accessing local information about COVID-19 (and more)

- City of London businesses: Business Healthy [www.businesshealthy.org](http://www.businesshealthy.org)
- Hackney businesses: Hackney Business Network [www.hackneybusinessnetwork.co.uk](http://www.hackneybusinessnetwork.co.uk)
- City & Hackney COVID-19 mailbox (for businesses to report COVID cases/ incidents): [testandtrace@hackney.gov.uk](mailto:testandtrace@hackney.gov.uk)



# Update on the local COVID-19 situation: outbreaks in businesses/ cases/ testing/ vaccinations

Daily  
COVID  
cases  
London



- Cases in London appear to be plateauing, but still very high
- Testing positivity rate in London is still increasing (6.8%), while testing is declining
- Latest incidence rate is 253.3/100,000 population in London (England 386.5/ 100,000)
- **Still seeing outbreaks associated with local businesses**
- **COVID-19 vaccine: 2nd dose coverage England approx 80%, London 60%**

# Impact of COVID

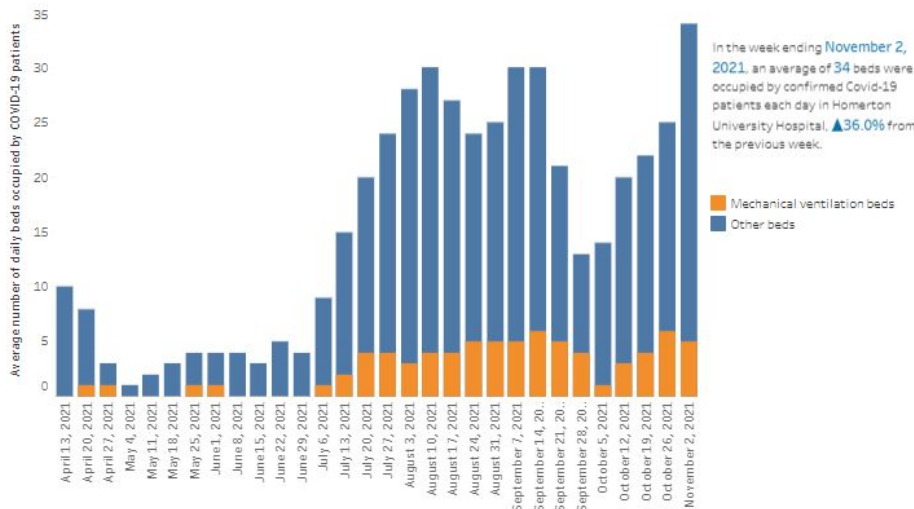
## Hospital bed occupancy

Weekly average number of Homerton University Hospital beds occupied by Covid-19 patients.

### Bed Occupancy

[Hover over the chart to see weekly values](#)

This graph shows the average number of beds occupied in Homerton University Hospital by confirmed Covid-19 patients each week. This weekly average is calculated by dividing the number of beds occupied each day by seven and is broken down by bed type.



Data source: NHS Covid-19 Hospital Activity. Last updated: 08 November 2021. Next update: 15 November 2021.

## Hospitalisations:

- ICU occupancy increasing
- Higher hospitalisation rates of young people than in Jan 2021
- Currently relatively low levels of flu associated infections in hospital
- **Flu, COVID and booster vaccinations essential**
- **Booster for COVID to be offered to all over 40yrs**

# “Plan B” measures

- COMMUNICATION - The message is around personal responsibility and behaviour (continued regular hand washing, wearing of face coverings, safe distancing, etc)
- COVID STATUS CERTIFICATE - Law will be brought in to make a “pass” (which must show FULL vaccine status) mandatory for entry into certain settings, as follows-
  - ALL nightclubs
  - Indoor crowded settings with 500 plus people eg music venues, seminars, etc
  - Outdoor Crowded settings with 4,000 plus people eg music festivals
  - ANY 10,000 plus large events eg major sporting events
  - Exemptions will apply for weddings, funerals, worship, demonstrations.
- FACE COVERINGS - Law will be brought in to make them mandatory again in some high risk settings ( not yet defined) but will be close proximity contact from different households eg public transport , music venues, theatres, possibly large office complexes
- LAW IN PLACE UNTIL MARCH 2022 - Self isolation of positive cases and ability for LA to close premises that pose a serious risk regarding covid spread
- VENTILATION



CITY  
OF  
LONDON



# Ventilation and using outdoor spaces

## Hands, Face, Space, Ventilated Place (Fresh Air)

- Outside, in fresh air, the virus disperses more easily- Utilise outside space where possible
- Bring the outside in- ventilate your spaces properly
- Adequate ventilation reduces how much virus is in the air. It helps reduce the risk from **aerosol transmission**.
  - Aerosol transmission can happen when someone breathes in small particles in the air (aerosols) after a person with the virus has been in the same enclosed area.
  - The risk from aerosols is greater in areas that are poorly ventilated.



# Health and safety law

- Deciding what adequate ventilation looks like in your workplace should be part of a risk assessment
- You must make sure there's an adequate supply of fresh air (ventilation) in enclosed areas of the workplace.
- Adequate ventilation can look different depending on your workplace or setting.
- Your ventilation is likely to be adequate if the rooms or spaces in your building(s) are:
  - used within the occupancy limits specified in the building design, **and**
  - have a sufficient fresh air supply to meet the current minimum building standard.
  - You can get advice from a competent ventilation engineer or, as a precautionary approach, operate your system on the maximum air flow rate



## BOHS- Breathe freely- Is my ventilation good enough?

- BOHS have produced a simple [Ventilation Self-Help tool](#) for Workplaces
  - The tool aims to give some guidance on whether your ventilation is going to have any effect on reducing coronavirus transmission.
  - It uses a very basic scoring system
  - You do not need to be a ventilation engineer to use the tool
- BOHS also produce [further FAQs](#)
- [Further advice from HSE](#) is also available
- HSE also reference more technical guidance from organisations such as [CIBSE](#)





# Other measures to reduce the spread

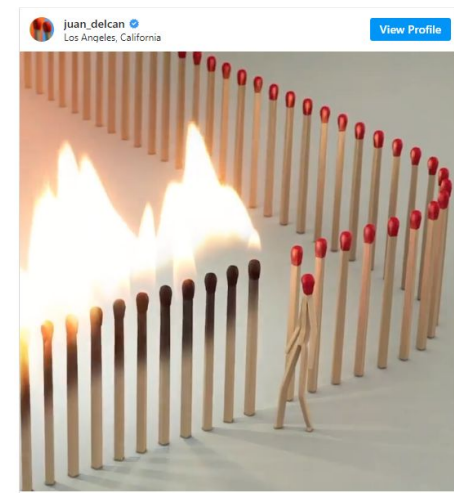
- Anyone who is unwell - COVID or not - should be advised to remain at home, to avoid spreading winter bugs to others
- Whether partygoer or organiser ensure that you plan everything in advance - use social media to its full impact
- Groups should ensure that everyone is well on the day , showing no covid symptoms and can produce a negative LFT prior to the event
- Do your homework about the venue- ask about save arrangements for seating plans, max safe capacity for ventilation, hand wash stations, one way flow traffic systems ,etc
- BE SENSIBLE and respect other people's space.
- Venue owners and managers MUST work out their MAX permitted numbers for safe operation and confirm with customers and staff , exactly what is required from them/of them on the day
- Avoid bunching and long queues, ( marshalls may be a good idea) and be strict on timings for next group bookings.leave ample time to sanitise tables and chairs
- Ensure any casual staff are fully trained and consider face coverings for servers/ waiting staff
- Retain details of all customers ( or a lead organiser)
- Good ventilation is vital - do all you can to increase air flow , but still keep customers comfortable.
- Make sure people enjoy themselves but expect the unexpected and have a PLAN OF ACTION



# Vaccines and testing

## Testing:

- PCR for symptoms, rapid (lateral flow) for asymptomatic (twice weekly advised)
- Rapid tests twice a week can make people aware when need to self-isolate and help to stop onward spreading of the virus
- All businesses should have a testing “regime” in place, even just signposting and communications
- Many businesses supporting staff to get tested regularly - should be at/ near to where they live **before** travelling to work
- Visit the City Corporation/ Hackney Council websites for testing details
- Lots of communications assets on [workplace testing](#) (including translations), [community testing](#), [ventilation](#), and [more](#)



## COVID-19 vaccine:

- The COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective and the best way to protect against severe disease and death from the virus
- They are not a failsafe - still a significant chance that someone double-vaccinated can catch COVID and pass it on (potentially to non-vaccinated)
- Many City workers may not yet be (fully) vaccinated
- Booster/ 3rd vaccines now being rolled out
- Not compulsory, but employers should be doing all they can to [encourage and support staff to get vaccinated](#)
- [“Workplace champions”](#) can be really effective
- [CIPD template policies and other resources](#)
- Additional benefits to being vaccinated
- Fully-vaccinated contacts of positive cases should take extra precautions during 10 days after last contact, as they can still transmit COVID to others



# Q&A

- Please submit questions via the chat, or through Menti.com (anonymous) (code: 6840 3413)
- You can also email questions to [testandtrace@hackney.gov.uk](mailto:testandtrace@hackney.gov.uk)



# Useful resources

- [Local guidance/ Standard Operating Procedures](#) for a range of premises, including hospitality and offices (City and Hackney).
- City and Hackney COVID-19 mailbox (for businesses to report COVID cases/ incidents): [testandtrace@hackney.gov.uk](mailto:testandtrace@hackney.gov.uk)
- COVID-19 testing (rapid and PCR):
  - Hackney: [www.hackney.gov.uk/coronavirus-support](http://www.hackney.gov.uk/coronavirus-support)
  - City of London:  
[www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/footer/covid-19/covid-testing-information](http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/footer/covid-19/covid-testing-information)
- [City and Hackney COVID-19 data dashboard](#)
- Hackney Business Network [newsletter](#) (Hackney)
- Business Healthy [newsletter](#) (City of London) (scroll to end of page)

