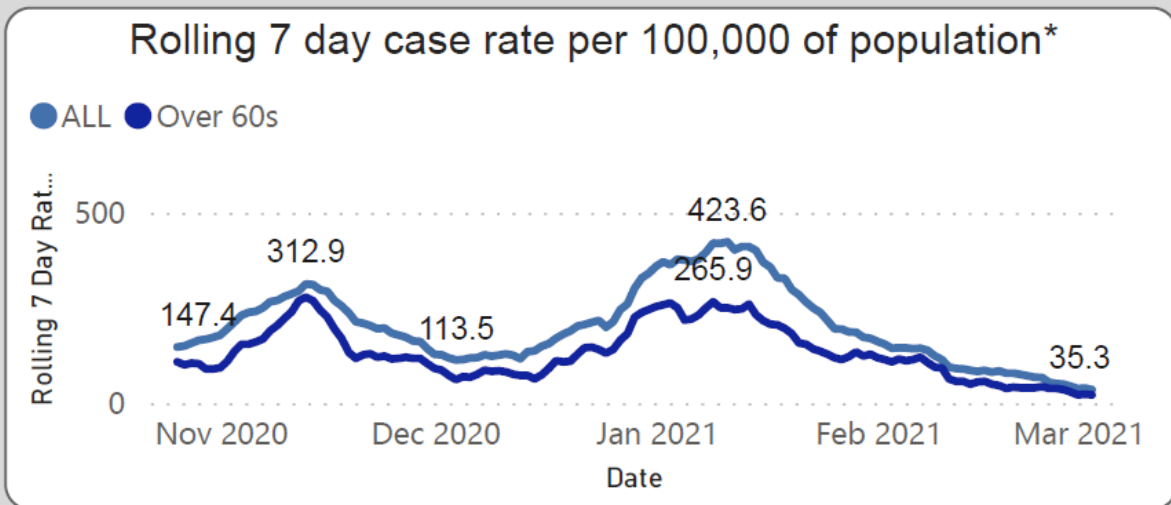


# HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL: PANDEMIC RESPONSE IN NORTH SOMERSET

**Overview and update**

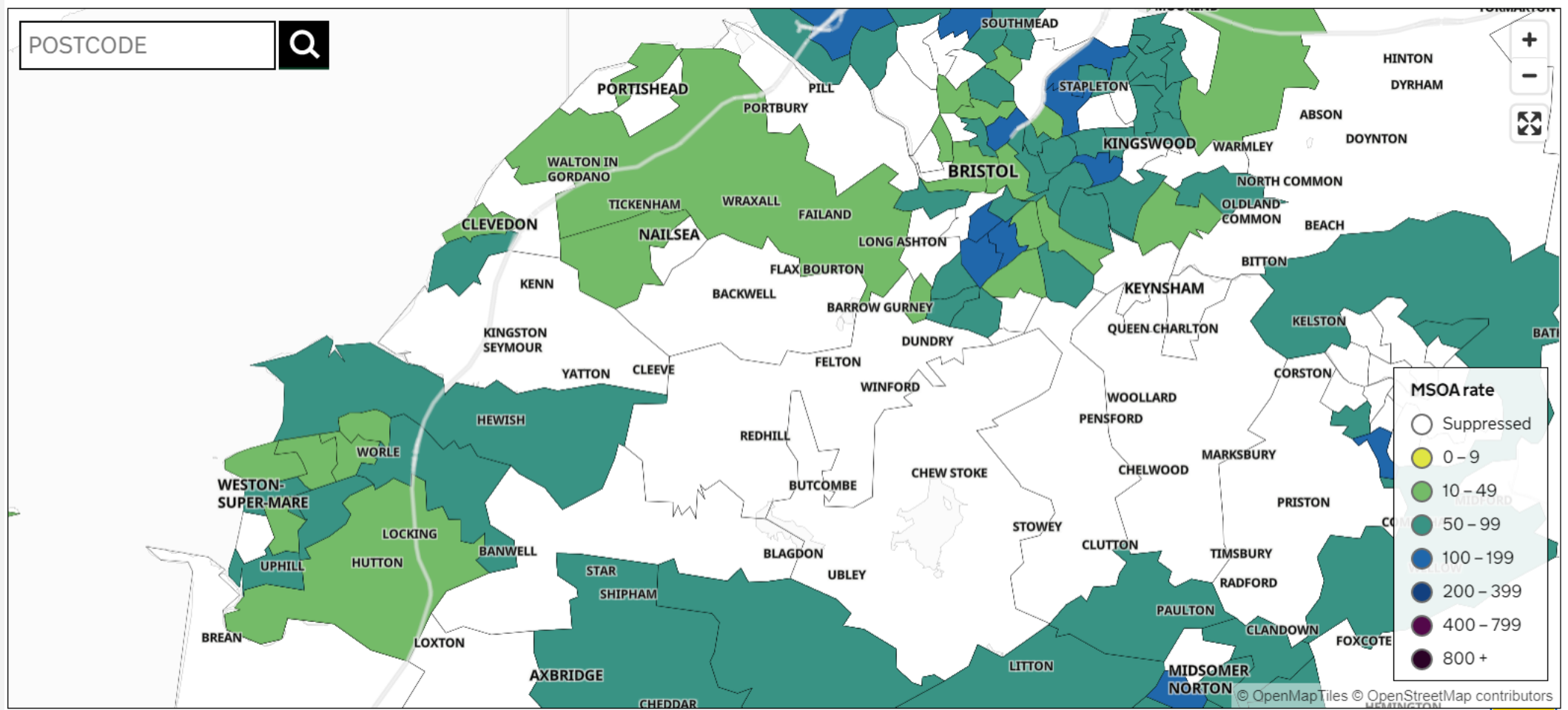
**Matt Lenny, Director of Public Health**



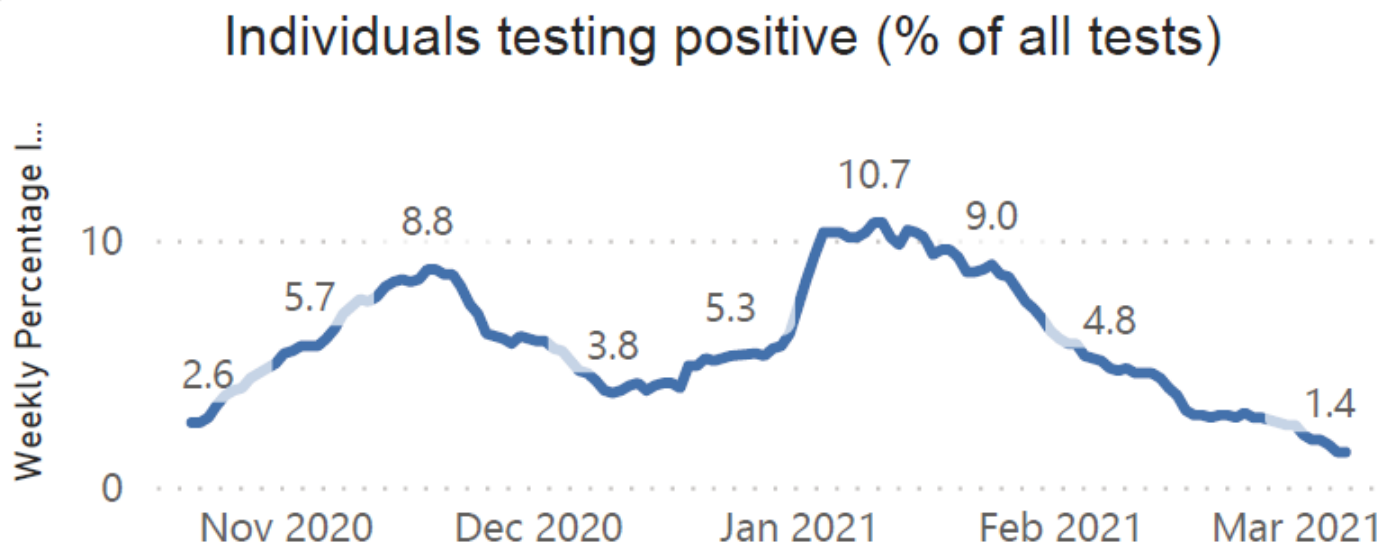
Cases last 7 days in North Somerset for full weeks data

**76**

| 7-day rate | ALL              | Over 60s                   |
|------------|------------------|----------------------------|
|            | North Somerset   | 35.3 per 100,000           |
| South West | 35.8 per 100,000 | 18.8 per 100,000           |
| England    | 66 per 100,000   | England data not available |



<https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/details/interactive-map>



Current % test positive:

North Somerset:  
**1.4%**

South West:  
**1.5%**

England: **3.1%**

## CASES BY AGE

| Area           | 0 to 14 | 15 to 24 | 25 to 44 | 45 to 64 | 65 to 74 | 75+  |
|----------------|---------|----------|----------|----------|----------|------|
| North Somerset | 16.3    | 43.9     | 67.4     | 46.0     | 22.1     | 12.2 |
| South West     | 18.0    | 44.8     | 59.6     | 34.3     | 12.1     | 18.1 |

@ 08/03/2021

## NUMBERS OF CASES

- We have seen a welcome significant drop in rates across North Somerset and the South West compares very favourably to other regions in England
- Reasonable to assume this trajectory will continue, especially with fast roll out of the vaccine and as we move into the spring and summer
- **But** variants of concern need to be watched carefully for transmissibility, clinical impacts and efficacy of the vaccine – have seen a good response in Bristol and South Gloucestershire and again in South Gloucestershire in recent weeks to show we have systems that work.
- Can still expect clusters and outbreaks of cases in more exposed or less vaccinated groups, especially as we begin to unlock – planning to provide a quick and effective outbreak control response e.g. identify cases quickly, isolate effectively and reduce risk of onward transmission.
- Encouraging information about value of vaccine in both reducing health risks (hospitalisation and death) and transmission once you have been vaccinated. More data will emerge over coming weeks and months and learning will be quickly applied.

# KEY WORKSTREAMS

## Outbreak Management

Health protection response to local clusters or outbreaks of cases.

Break chain of transmission in higher risk locations by setting profile and/or potential to spread

Weekly Incident Management Team meetings to support locations

## Testing

Case finding to ensure isolation and break chain of transmission.

Diagnosis to assist clinical management

Reduce risk to key groups with targeted testing.

PCR and Lateral Flow Testing at multiple sites

## Contact tracing

Ensure isolation of diagnosed case and give practical advice and support

Define contacts to support further isolation/testing as required

Break chain of transmission

Local enhanced service launched in January

## Insight, communication, and engagement

Identify and support key protective behaviours

Understand and address barriers to compliance

Regular updates for key stakeholders

Build community response capital

## Enforcement

Use regulatory services powers to ensure business awareness and compliance

Investigate and address breaches

Work alongside Police powers when engagement not successful

Additional presence e.g. Marshalls fund.

## Surveillance and intelligence

Monitor trends and address patterns of increased incidence

Model future patterns to prevent/reduce impact where possible

Monitor new variants

## Vaccination

NHS England/CCG/Providers lead with wider support for community engagement and messaging. Enable vaccination sites as required.

## Community response

North Somerset together; Town and Parish Councils and other local action groups. Vital reach and credibility with those who need support.

# COMMUNITY TESTING

## Symptomatic

- In place in three sites in North Somerset since summer 2020 – Bristol Airport, Clevedon and Weston Super Mare.

## Asymptomatic

- Began in December 2020 with pilot site at Weston College
- Community assisted testing now being offered in three locations – Portishead, Nailsea and Weston Super Mare.
- Families and households with primary school, secondary school and college age children, including childcare and support bubbles, are now encouraged to get rapid Covid-19 tests twice a week. More population groups likely to follow as society unlocks.
- Community sites offer supervised tests, with home-testing kits available to collect from symptomatic sites (currently WSM and Airport), postal kits being delivered direct to homes and workplace testing sites for those who regularly access this type of testing.
- Rapid community testing aims to find people who are infectious with Covid-19 but do not have symptoms. This allows them to isolate, taking the virus out of the community and stopping the spread.

## Useful links:

Schools testing –

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff#how-to-get-a-rapid-lateral-flow-test>

Community testing –

[www.n-somerset.gov.uk/rapidtesting](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/rapidtesting)



# Example booking page

< Prev Month

March 2021

Next Month >

| MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT | SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT | SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT | SUN |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   | 8   | 9   | 10  | 11  | 12  | 13  | 14  | 15  | 16  | 17  | 18  | 19  | 20  | 21  |
| 22  | 23  | 24  | 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  | 29  | 30  | 31  | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   | 8   | 9   | 10  | 11  |

## Somerset Hall, Portishead

[Venue Location:](#)

11 The Precinct, [Read more](#)

**General Public Lat** [Read more](#)  
**Tests**

## Available start times

|       |       |       |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 08:30 | 08:35 | 08:40 | 08:45 | 08:50 | 08:55 |
| 09:00 | 09:05 | 09:10 | 09:15 | 09:20 | 09:25 |
| 09:30 | 09:35 | 09:40 | 09:45 | 09:50 | 09:55 |
| 10:00 | 10:05 | 10:10 | 10:15 | 10:20 | 10:25 |
| 10:30 | 10:35 | 10:40 | 10:45 | 10:50 | 10:55 |
| 11:00 | 11:05 | 11:10 | 11:15 | 11:20 | 11:25 |

mplybook.cc/v2/#book/location/5/service/10/count/1/provider...

# VACCINATION

- Weekly update published each Thursday giving data at Local Authority and Medium Super Output Area level (about 7,000 people in each MSOA). May also soon go down to Lower Super Output Area soon (about 1,500 people).

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/covid-19-vaccinations/>

- Weekly updates provided by BNSSG Clinical Commissioning Group on progress, new delivery sites etc.

<https://bnssgccg.nhs.uk/health-advice-and-support/coronavirus-covid-19-vaccination/>

- Overall message is that good progress is being made in North Somerset with BNSSG as one of the top performers in the country. There is lots to celebrate in our response.
- Up to 28 February, 79,445 of our residents have been vaccinated with at least one dose.
- Latest eligibility criteria confirms an age based approach rather than by occupational group

# The key tests for the road map to work

## The Four Tests

### Test 1



The vaccine deployment programme continues successfully.

### Test 2



Evidence shows vaccines are sufficiently effective in reducing hospitalisations and deaths in those vaccinated.

### Test 3



Infection rates do not risk a surge in hospitalisations which would put unsustainable pressure on the NHS.

### Test 4



Our assessment of the risks is not fundamentally changed by new Variants of Concern.

# 8 March

## Our response:

- Reviewing step-up of home to school transport
- Reviewing comms messaging for outdoor meetings
- Planning underway for higher visitor numbers in key locations e.g. covid community support officers

## STEP 1: 8 March



Schools and colleges are open for all students. Practical Higher Education Courses.



Stay at home.



Recreation or exercise outdoors with household or one other person.  
No household mixing indoors.



Wraparound childcare.



Funerals (30), wakes and weddings (6).

# 29 March

## Our response:

- Operations group working on gatherings of more people
- Proactive communication of guidance to those outdoor venues
- Public messaging on rule of 6 and safe behaviours including minimise travel



29 March

  
Rule of 6 or two households outdoors.  
No household mixing indoors.

  
Outdoor sport and leisure facilities.

  
Organised outdoor sport allowed (children and adults).

  
Minimise travel.  
No holidays.

  
Outdoor parent & child groups (up to 15 parents).

## STEP 2

At least five weeks after Step 1, no earlier than 12 April.



Indoor leisure (including gyms) open for use individually or within household groups.



Rule of 6 or two households outdoors.  
No household mixing indoors.



Outdoor attractions, such as zoos, theme parks and drive-in cinemas.



Libraries and community centres.



Personal care premises.



All retail.



Outdoor hospitality.



All children's activities, indoor parent & child groups (up to 15 parents).



Domestic overnight stays (household only).



Self-contained accommodation (household only).



Funerals (30), wakes, weddings, receptions (15).



Minimise travel.  
No international holidays.



Event pilots begin.

# 12 April

## Our response:

- Communication with key settings e.g. retail, businesses, attractions, caravan and camping sites on new guidance and local support
- Coordinate education/enforcement resources across teams and Police for higher risk locations and settings
- Consider hospitality economy impact and opportunities to trade
- Reopen key Council facilities – leisure and libraries using risk assessment approach to be COVID safe

## STEP 3

At least five weeks after Step 2, no earlier than 17 May.



Indoor entertainment and attractions.



30 person limit outdoors.  
Rule of 6 or two households indoors (subject to review).



Domestic overnight stays.



Organised indoor adult sport.



Most significant life events (30).



Remaining outdoor entertainment (including performances).



Remaining accommodation.



Some large events (except for pilots) - capacity limits apply.  
Indoor events: 1,000 or 50%.  
Outdoor other events: 4,000 or 50%.  
Outdoor seated events: 10,000 or 25%.



International travel - subject to review.

# 17 May

## Our response:

- Build up to events using detail of guidance and promotion of safe practices
- Working with hospitality industry and accommodation providers
- Manage our open spaces and gatherings well

# 21 June

## Our response:

- Public messaging around key behaviours still required e.g. protective measures, testing and isolation where needed – living safely with COVID.
- Routine asymptomatic testing.
- Ongoing health protection response – identify and deal with clusters/outbreaks quickly

## STEP 4

At least five weeks after Step 3, no earlier than 21 June.  
By Step 4, the Government hopes to be able to introduce the following  
(subject to review):



No legal limits on  
social contact.



Nightclubs.



Larger events.



No legal limit on all  
life events.