

# Southend Health & Wellbeing Board

Agenda  
Item No.

Report of the Director of Public Health

To  
Health & Wellbeing Board

on  
8<sup>th</sup> September 2021

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Director of Public Health

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| For information only | X | For discussion |  | Approval required |  |
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## Coronavirus Pandemic Management Updates from the Health Protection Board and the Oversight and Engagement Board

### Part 1 (Public Agenda Item)

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#### Purpose

This is to provide an update on the COVID-19 Local Outbreak Management Plan implementation of the national Test, Trace and Isolate programme.

#### Background

The national COVID-19 Contain Framework was updated in August 2021. This is a guide for local decision makers in England. It sets out how national, regional and local partners should continue to work with each other, the public, businesses, institutions (including schools, prisons, hospitals, care home and homelessness settings), and other local system partners in their communities, to prevent, manage and contain outbreaks of COVID-19.

Test, Trace and Isolate has an important ongoing role in the management of local outbreaks. It is a core element of our shared ambition to break chains of COVID-19 transmission to enable people to maintain a more normal way of life, living safely with COVID-19.

Local communities are at the heart of this. It's important that there is a continued strong local, regional and national partnership to support people in understanding and complying with advice and guidance designed to protect their health. Many of the groups who face disproportionate impacts from COVID-19 are likely to be underserved by national activity, and we need local insight, and targeted, culturally competent action to engage them.

Local authorities and their local system partners are an integral part of the response to COVID-19, working closely with regional health protection teams (HPTs) and the wider COVID-19 regional partnership teams.

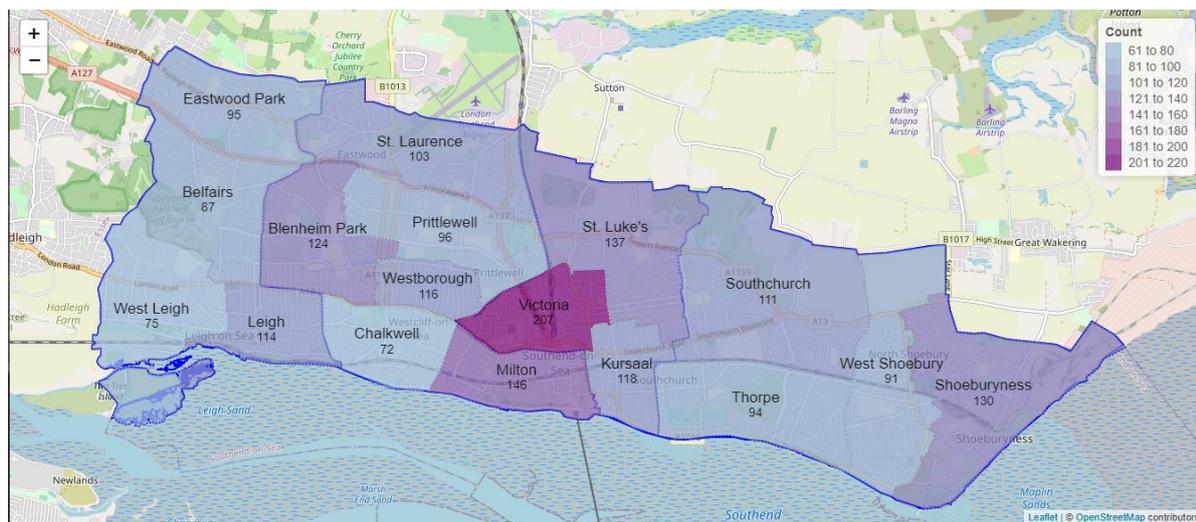
## Local Outbreak Management Plan (LOMP)

Local planning and response are enshrined in the Southend LOMP which was published at the end of July 2021 and remains a dynamic document. Response includes a local containment strategy, the implementation of which is expected to be achieved within the existing legal framework and by appealing to the public's sense of civic duty and working with local community leaders. This can be accessed [here](#).

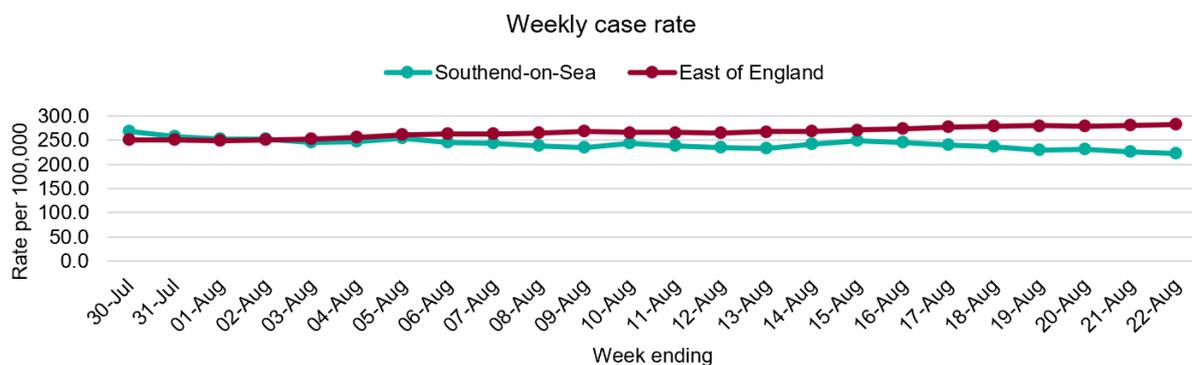
## Local Boards & Pandemic Management

**The Health Protection Board (HPB)** now meets fortnightly and receives the local Pandemic Surveillance Report monitoring of our testing capabilities, infection rate, mortality rate, positivity rate, level of contact tracing, progress with vaccination and any report and case reviews of local outbreaks and the impact on health and social care. We also review our joint approach with Essex Police on compliance and enforcement.

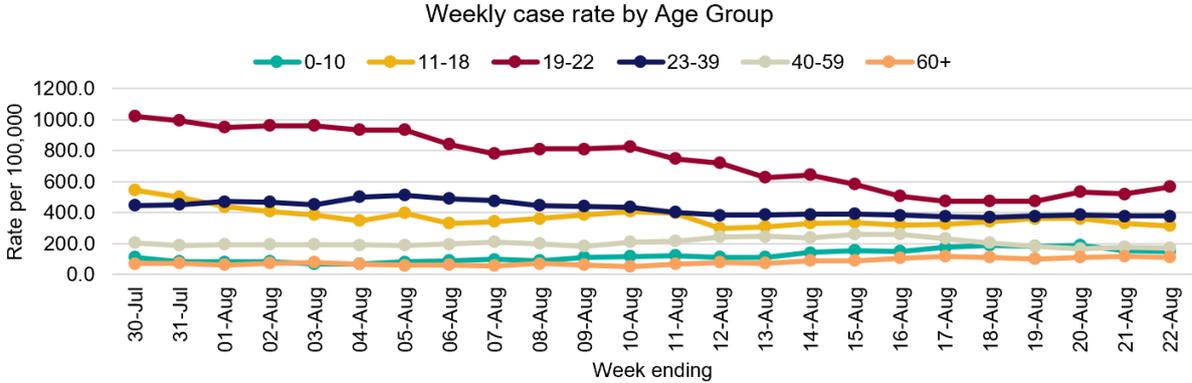
Over the past 30 days, we have seen 1,916 positive cases as highlighted in the map below – this was down from 2,594 cases in the previous 30 days, although we are currently seeing an increase in cases.



The infection rate has remained constant but high (between 220-260 cases per 100,000) in the past 4 weeks. Our overall rate was 223/100,000 (27<sup>th</sup> August 2021), and we are now seeing a gradual increase in infection, which is likely to increase when school resumes in a week's time.



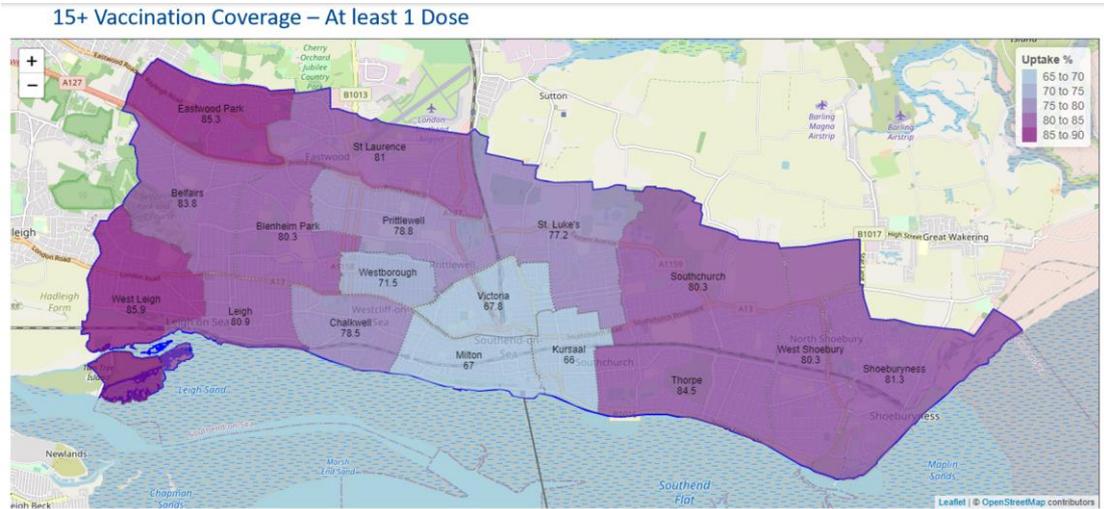
We are seeing some differences in virus transmission in age groups, remaining high in the younger age groups, especially people aged 19-22yrs. We continue to explore new ways to engage and communicate the risk of virus transmission with them.



We have been working closely with the schools to support the safe return to school planned for the week beginning 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021, with some returning earlier. Community home testing will remain a key component of keeping infection rate low and in continuing to suppress the virus.

We are in the process of launching a Southend-specific contact tracing and support service on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021. This will enable us to respond more swiftly, with better local insight, as we approach the autumn/winter seasons. The main PCR testing facilities are provided through the Short Street and Southend Airport sites and as required in Shoebury.

The vaccination programme is running effectively across Southend: the larger centre is now based at the Civic Centre. A total of 125,000 first dose vaccines (approx. 81% of the adults population) have been administered as at 24<sup>th</sup> August 2021, with approximately 70% having received a second dose as well. We are closely working with our NHS partners to identify and engage local sub-groups (e.g. BAME, Deprivation level, Care Home staff, Faith groups, etc) to help reduce vaccination hesitancy locally. There are four wards with coverage below 72%.



With regards to the local mortality rate, we have been reviewing the excess mortality from COVID and as we have seen even more deaths during the current wave. A number of outbreak management teams were initiated to manage the response to care home outbreaks and to ensure all infection prevention and control measures were being followed effectively.

**The Outbreak Control Oversight and Engagement Board** continues to lead on a number of communication and engagement activities, including refreshing our messaging to the public and local businesses. We continue to hold regular webinars with schools and we are actively engaged with a multi-media social marketing campaign in promoting our key messages of maintaining social distancing, hand hygiene and using face covering in the appropriate settings. We have been holding regular community engagement events to provide reassurance, respond to local concerns and gain more insight to support our local response.

The Board is actively supporting with promoting the community LFD testing programme and supporting the local NHS in addressing any hesitancy with the COVID-19 vaccination programme.

All our actions and local interventions are reviewed and shared with the Regional Test and Trace Support and Assurance Team.

### **Recommendation**

1. For the HWB Board to note progress and ongoing implementation of the Local Outbreak Management Plan by the Local Health Protection Board and the Outbreak Control Oversight and Engagement Board.