

NEL Health Update

December 2021

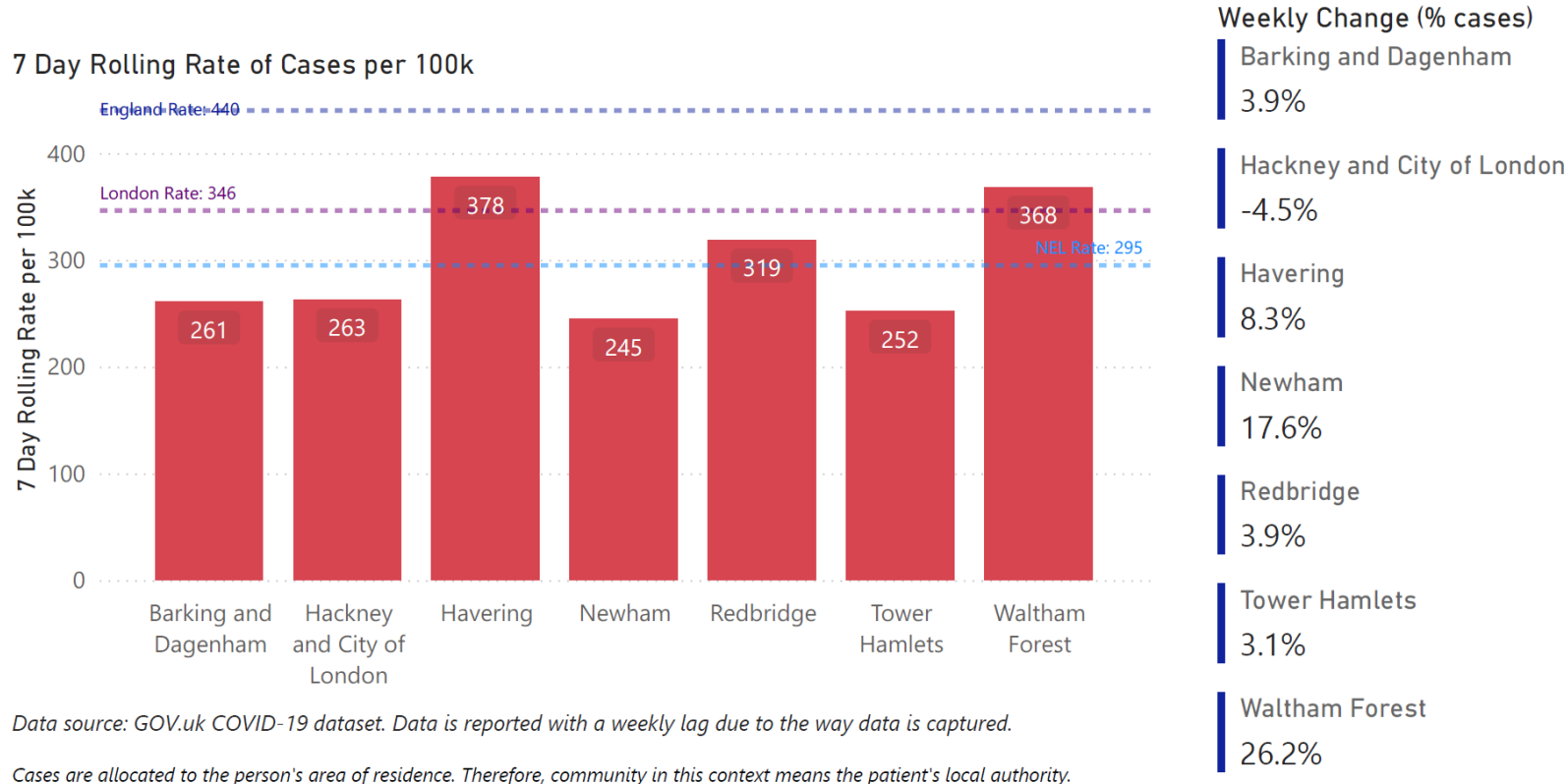
ONEL JHOSC

Covid-19

- We continue to deliver the **vaccine programme** (see attachment for latest figures)
- Across hospitals in north east London, more than eight out of every ten Covid-19 patients are not fully vaccinated. We have now given more than 2.7 million Covid-19 vaccinations, but as we head towards Christmas we are ramping up efforts even further to vaccinate people with first, second and booster jabs.
- People who are not fully vaccinated account for 30% of our intensive care beds – meaning that we are delaying and cancelling urgent planned operations (heart operations, transplants etc)
- We continue to provide the vaccine in line with the latest government guidelines
- This includes offering boosters in line with the latest eligibility criteria, and making second doses available to 12-15 year olds
- Details of who is eligible and how to get the vaccine are here: [COVID-19-Vaccination-Programme | North East London Health & Care Partnership \(eastlondonhcp.nhs.uk\)](https://www.eastlondonhcp.nhs.uk/covid-19-vaccination-programme)
- We have launched a new targeted, advertising campaign in north east London to encourage people to get their winter vaccinations.
- The campaign webpage is here: www.northeastlondonhcp.nhs.uk/wintervaccinations and our digital campaign materials direct people to it. The site includes the key narrative, regularly updated FAQs and links to book vaccinations.

Covid-19

The latest data shows the number of Covid-19 cases in NEL has risen overall, although the rolling rate of cases per 100,000 people is well below the national average.



Latest Day Reported:
24 November 2021

Winter plan: urgent and emergency resilience

- The NEL structure allows for greater clarity and accountability for design, delivery & oversight of the plan
- This approach fully **supports the regional and national approaches** to Winter Plan assurance as laid out in the national urgent and emergency care recovery 10 point plan and the Regional winter planning asks

Approach:

1. **Combine COVID and winter planning at provider, place and ICS level** to ensure winter plans are in line with system capacity and demand challenges
2. **London Region to assure ICS plans** and processes via submitted plans and regional assurance processes

Focus Area	Place/Borough	Provider	NEL system/ICS
Supporting 111/999 services	✓	✓	
Supporting Primary Care & community services to manage UEC demand	✓		✓
Supporting greater use of UTCs	✓	✓	
Increasing support for Children and young people	✓	✓	✓
Using communications to support the public to choose services wisely	✓	✓	✓
Improving in-hospital flow and discharge	✓	✓	
Supporting Adult and children's mental health	✓	✓	✓
Reviewing IPC measures		✓	
Reviewing covid isolation rules	✓	✓	
Ensuring a sustainable workforce	✓		✓

Winter plan: reducing pressure on emergency services

Through remote clinical consultations:

- Our remote emergency access coordination hub was relaunched in November. It is available for both NHS 111 and London Ambulance Service to refer patients from within the Barts Health footprint
- Patients are offered a remote consultation by an emergency department clinician. If further investigations or treatment are needed then a suitable appointment and/or investigations can be booked for the patient.
- A large proportion of referrals are managed remotely which reduces pressure on emergency departments and ambulance callouts where clinically appropriate and provides a better patient experience.

Winter plan: reducing pressure on emergency services

Through NHS 111 referrals to same day emergency care:

- A number of symptom-based pathways have been set up across NEL, allowing NHS 111 to refer patients directly into the appropriate same day emergency service
- These pathways include low-risk chest pain, palpitations, and abscesses
- This will enable patients to receive the right care first time, reduce pressure on emergency departments and help cut the number of admissions to hospital.

Recovery: secondary care and mental health

As at end September 2021:

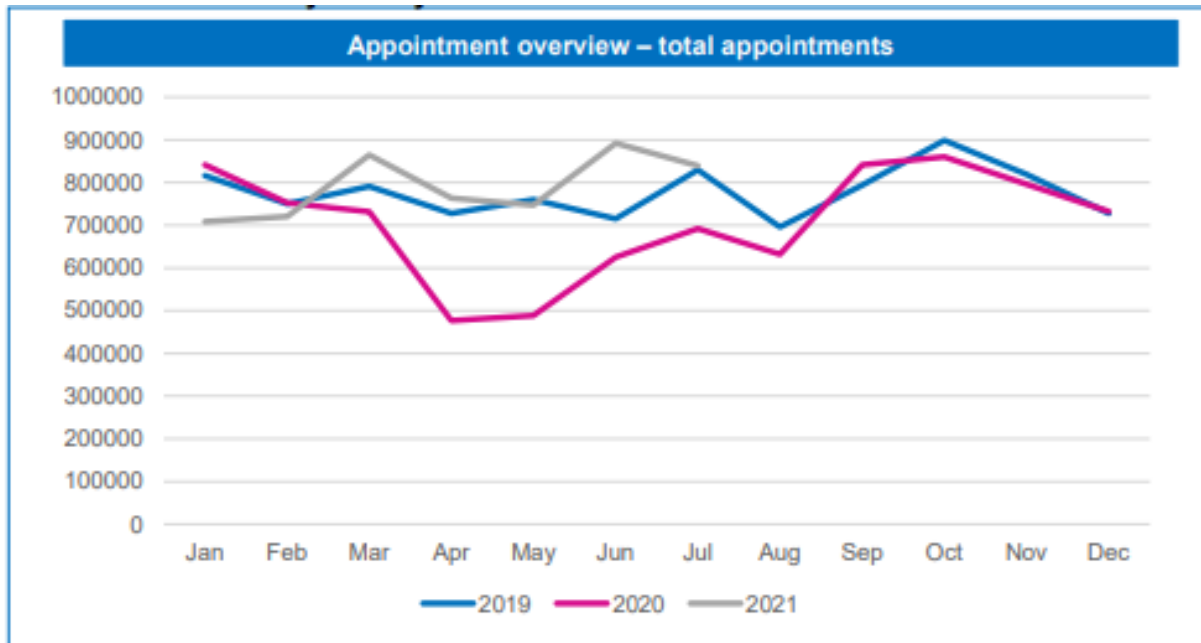
- Use of **urgent treatment centres** is now above 2019/20 levels
- In May there were 14,865 people waiting more than **52 weeks for treatment** in north east London. Now there are 10,415 but the rate of reduction is starting to slow down (consistent with the pattern across London)
- There are 595 patients waiting over **104 weeks for treatment** (ahead of trajectory of 704 patients)
- **Outpatient activity** is 90% of business as usual (behind trajectory of 104%)
- **Elective activity** (inpatient and day case) is 79% of business as usual (behind trajectory of 93%)
- We are planning to see **20% more cancer two week wait referrals** compared to pre-Covid levels. August performance was at 92% and second highest in London
- We delivered **12,400 Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT)** appointments in April-June 2021.

Recovery: planned care, cancer and diagnostics at BHRUT

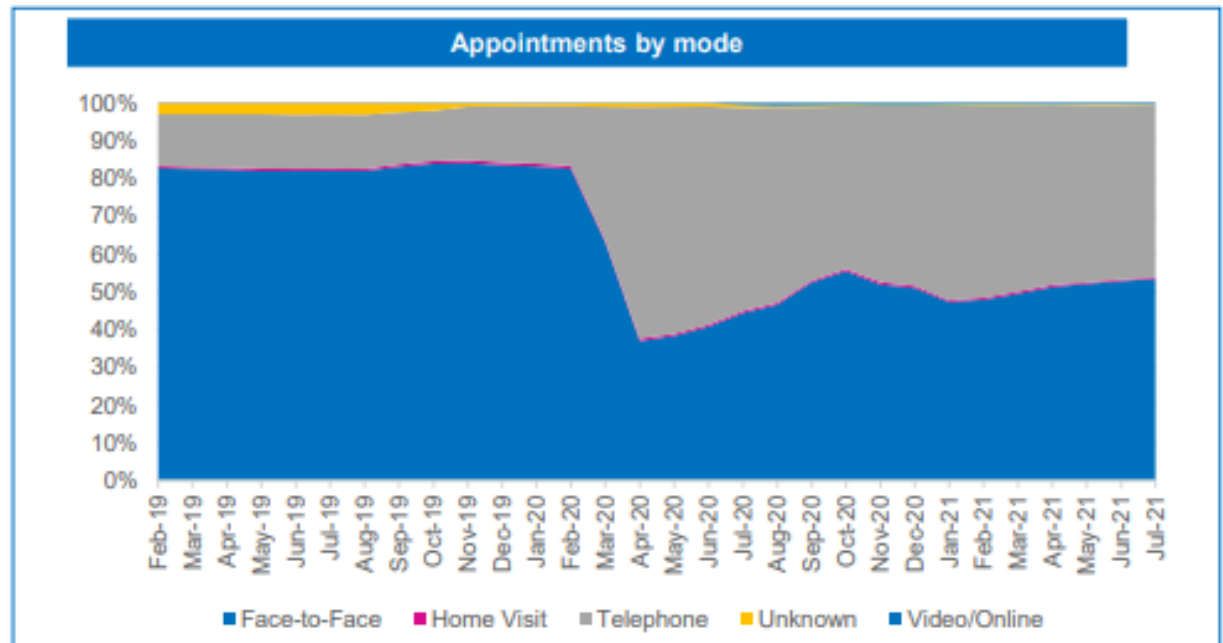
- We continue to see a positive impact and sustainable reduction in our waiting lists. The number of people waiting 52 weeks or more has reduced from 1,938 in April to below 1,000 in October and we remain on track to reduce to zero by the middle of next year.
- We are running several dedicated 'super clinics', many over the weekend, and we are maximising our resources to carry out a large number of appointments/procedures, over short periods of time.
- We're collaborating with our partners across NEL to tackle waiting lists across the system to see patients more quickly. As part of our collaboration with Barts Health, we are treating some of their patients. We're also sharing the learnings from our super clinics.
- Our rapid diagnostic centre ensures those with possible cancer symptoms are being investigated at an early stage and treated quickly and effectively.
- We've expanded our radiology department, including a new CT scanner, upgraded MRI machine and two new ultrasound rooms.
- For the foreseeable future, infection, prevention and control (IPC) guidance will continue to impact, in particular in our ED and clinical areas, creating additional pressure.

Recovery: primary care

- We have returned to (and increased) the number of **primary care appointments** to pre-pandemic levels. From April to September 2021 we planned to carry out 4.67 million appointments. We actually carried out 4.95 million appointments (approx 50,000 appointments a month extra).
- Advice and Guidance (A&G) levels continue to be the highest in London. A&G enables GPs to speak direct to hospital consultants for immediate referral advice.



Source: NHS Digital, NEL GP Practice Appointments: <https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/appointments-in-general-practice>.



Source: NHS Digital, NEL GP Practice Appointments: <https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/appointments-in-general-practice>.

Looking ahead

- Whipps Cross: joint overview and scrutiny committee established
- Continuing Healthcare: working with councils to harmonise a number of policies. Plan to return to JHOSC in March 2022 with proposals and engage with the local community and patient groups
- Project to develop a single updated fertility policy for north east London: working with clinicians, patients, the public and national and local community groups to update our policy to ensure an equitable and consistent approach to access. Plan to return to JHOSC in March 2022 with proposals.
- Local Improvement Schemes (LIS): A number of schemes in development with partners to reduce inequalities across north east London. Key priorities include access to blood testing, respiratory services and wound care. Plan to return to JHOSC in 2022 with proposals.

Next steps

- NEL CCG and our partners across health and social care in north east London will keep joint health overview and scrutiny committee members informed and updated on any proposed changes to local services or policies. Further updates, including on progress and relevant patient and public engagement, will be given at the JHOSC meeting in March.
- The local NHS and our partners are committed to engaging on proposed service and policy changes for a minimum of eight weeks.
- As we come together as an ICS, health and care organisations in NEL continue to work together to support Covid-19 recovery, with a focus on population health, tackling inequalities and transforming care
- As part of a strategic approach to developing our clinical services, we are working with local authority public health leads to review population health needs and patient flows across NEL, arising from significant developments in housing and the transport infrastructure.
- We will capitalise on the innovations we have seen thrive during our pandemic response, and work closer as a system to meet the needs of our local population now and in the future.