

Covid Update for TM&C

It is worth repeating the introduction from a previous report we prepared:

“The evidence that black and ethnic minority groups in the UK- in particular black, Bangladeshi and Pakistani groups -have been hit the hardest by Covid-19 is indisputable. Almost every data source agrees.

The government commissioned a review into possible “disparities” (not “inequalities”) in Covid - 19 outcomes among ethnic groups. The review findings in early June resulted in disappointment and anger among race and faith equality organisations, BAME communities and the medical profession. “Out of 89 pages of the review into “disparities in...risk and outcomes, only eleven addressed the question of why black and ethnic minority people in the UK might be more vulnerable to serious illness and death with Covid-19. There was not a single recommendation on how to save BAME lives.” *Zubaida Haque, interim director of the Runnymede Trust and a Member of Independent Sage, New Statesman, 3rd July 2020*

The government eventually released a third party evidence report, *Beyond the Data: Understanding the Impact of Covid-19 on Bame Groups. Public Health England, June 2020*. The report, which contained consultations with over 4000 stakeholders, highlighted, “racism and discrimination experienced by communities and more specifically by BAME key workers as a root cause affecting health, exposure risk and disease progressive risk.

BAME communities are over-represented among poorer socio-economic groups. They are more likely to live in densely populated areas, in overcrowded and multigenerational housing.”

Current Case Rate Numbers

238,465 people tested positive in week to 8 October 2021 but vast majority of cases are in the young:

10-14yr old	1500 cases per 100,000
15-19yr old	620 cases per 100,000
5-9yr old	580 cases per 100,000
30-59yr old	280 cases per 100,000
20-29yr old	180 cases per 100,000
60 plus	150 cases per 100,000

Prof Christina Pagel, Professor of Occupational Research, UCL, yesterday (4th October 2021), said, “There is literally an outbreak in every school.”

Vaccinations:

2nd Dose Coverage by deprivation for England to 31st August 2021

Most Deprived 70%

Least Deprived 89%

2nd Dose Coverage by ethnicity for England to 31st August 2021

White 79%; Indian 71%; Bangladeshi 63%; Pakistani 55%

Other Asian 58%; Mixed 54%; Black 48%
NHS official figures

1.

Covid Remains a Critical Health Issue

Almost 1000 people are dying each week in England within 28 days of a positive Covid test. SIX times higher than a year ago.

“Many highly vaccinated countries have struggled with DELTA, but are keeping it under control with some additional public health measures. We are one of the ones with the fewest health protections. Our high case rates are NOT inevitable, they are a policy choice.”

Independent Sage, 10th September 2021

Public Health England's core recommendations for BAME communities suggest:

- Mandate ethnicity data collections and recording
- Support community participatory research
- Improve healthcare access, experience and outcome
- Accelerate culturally tailored chronic disease efforts
- Ensure Covid-19 recovery reduces inequality caused by wider health determinants

Most important are three mitigation factors that we can all ensure we follow and encourage, since they remain the most practical and effective measures:

- 1. The wearing of masks is a very important tool and should be strenuously encouraged in all settings, but particularly in crowded places (indoor and outdoor) where social distancing (2metres) is impossible.**
- 2. Ventilation often remains the forgotten tool in our prevention strategy. It is vital, since we are dealing with an airborne contagion, to remember to open windows and doors.**
- 3. Encourage vaccination including the third dose for the over 50's and clinically vulnerable. Most important that this group completes the course.**

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